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Telangana Today

FOR LOCAL TO GLOBAL NEWS

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HYDERABAD EDITION
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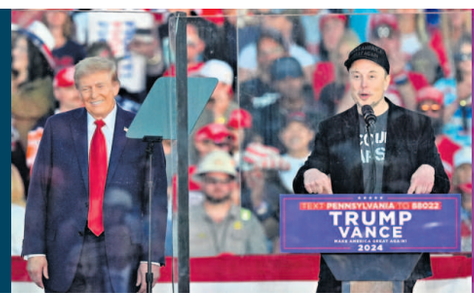
NATION | PAGE 07

Seven, including three kids, perish in Mumbai fire



WORLD | PAGE 09

Trump must win to preserve democracy in US, says Musk

Ex-President urges voters to end radical-left agenda once and for all

SPORT | PAGE 10

India crawl to victory, keep semis hope alive in T20 WC

In a nutshell

Man playing Lord Ram dies on stage

NEW DELHI: A 45-year-old man died after he suffered a heart attack on stage while performing the role of Lord Rama at a Ramlila in Vishwakarma Nagar of Shahdara, police on Sunday said. According to police, the deceased, identified as Sunil Kaushik, was a property dealer. Rahul Kaushik, a family member, said that Sunil was one of the founding members of the 'Jai Shri Ramlila' committee. PTI

Maldives President arrives in India

NEW DELHI: Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu arrived in New Delhi on a five-day state visit at the invitation of President Droupadi Murmu. During the visit, he is scheduled to hold meetings with President Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior officials of the Indian government. Later in the day, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar called on Mohamed Muizzu. IANS

Kerala priest picked as Cardinal

KOCHI: Monsignor George Jacob Koovakad, a 51-year-old priest from Kerala, who organises Pope Francis' travels since 2020, was among the 21 priests elevated to the rank of cardinal, the Church said. The priest, belonging to the Syro-Malabar Archdiocese of Changanacherry, is currently based in the Vatican. The formal ceremony for the creation of these Cardinals is scheduled for December 8.

WORLD PAGE 9

Two killed in lightning strike

WARANGAL: Two people, including a teenage girl, lost their lives after being struck by lightning in Venkatapur village of the district on Sunday. The deceased were identified as K Raju (25) and Shravani (17). According to reports, the duo was struck by lightning while working in an agriculture field at the village. They died on the spot. The police shifted the bodies to government hospital for postmortem.

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 114
Retail live	Rs. 136
With skin	Rs. 197
Skinless	Rs. 224
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 72

State's revenue crisis deepens

Receipts continue to fall short of targets

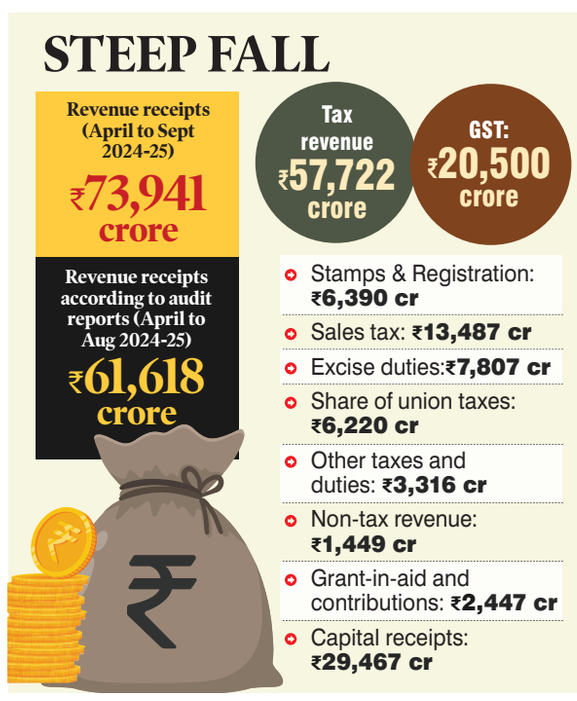
PS DILEEP
HYDERABAD

Telangana's financial health is under significant strain as the State government's revenue receipts continue to fall short of its ambitious targets, raising concerns about its ability to manage mounting debts.

At the end of the first half of the current fiscal year i.e. April-September, the State government managed to collect only Rs 73,941 crore, just 33.42 per cent of its annual revenue target of Rs 2.21 lakh crore.

This indicates a sharp decline compared to the same period last year when the State collected Rs 87,207 crore, now trailing by Rs 13,266 crore. Compared to the monthly targets, the State is falling short by about Rs 2,000 crore each month in revenue collections compared to the last financial year. There is a significant gap that underscores the fiscal challenges Telangana faces.

According to audit reports till August, the State's revenue receipts from April to August were Rs 61,618 crore or 27.85 per cent of the annual target. The State's tax revenue during this period amounted to Rs 57,722 crore, marginally higher than the previous year's Rs 55,441 crore but still far below expectations.



Key components of Telangana's revenue mix are struggling to meet their targets. The GST revenue stands at Rs 20,500 crore, well short of the annual target of Rs 58,594 crore. Revenue from Stamps and Registrations reached only Rs 6,390 crore, against a target of Rs 18,229 crore, while Sales Tax collections amounted to Rs 13,487 crore, compared to the expected Rs 33,449 crore. Similarly, State Excise revenue stood at Rs 7,807 crore out of an annual target of Rs 25,617 crore. The State's share of union taxes was recorded at Rs 6,220 crore, of the estimated Rs 18,384 crore, showing a substantial shortfall in Central transfers. Non-tax revenue, an important stream, delivered a dismal Rs 1,449 crore, against a projection of Rs 35,208 crore. Additionally, the State received only Rs 2,447 crore in grants-in-aid from the Centre, far below the Budget estimate of Rs 21,636 crore. (SEE PAGE 2)

Jaishankar calls UN 'old company'

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday took a critical view of the United Nations, saying it was "like an old company", not entirely keeping up with the market but occupying the space. During an interaction at the Kautilya Economic Conclave here, he also said that two very serious conflicts are going on in the world. "And where is the UN on them, essentially a bystander," the Minister said.

In response to a query on the possible outcome of the US elections, he said the US actually has "made a shift", geopolitically and in its economic outlook, and irrespective of the outcomes in November, many of these trends will "intensify" in the days to come. Jaishankar took part in the interactive session on 'India and the Globe' and spoke of India's role and challenges amid changing global dynamics.

"So, we are both a lifting tide and a bit of paradoxical one, a ballast as well," Jaishankar said as he enumerated some of the steps India has taken to help other countries, including its neighbours such as Sri Lanka. Asked about his upcoming visit to Pakistan to attend a summit of the SCO, he again sought to rule out any bilateral talks with his Pakistani counterpart. "I am going there for a certain job, a certain responsibility. And, I take my responsibilities seriously," Jaishankar said. (SEE PAGE 2)

19 dead in strike on Gaza

Israel hits mosque sheltering displaced people

Charred cars at the site of an Israeli airstrike in Dahiyeh, Beirut, on Sunday. — Photo:AP

DEIR AL-BALAH

An Israeli strike on a mosque in the Gaza Strip early Sunday killed at least 19 people, Palestinian officials said, as Israel intensified its bombardment of northern Gaza and southern Beirut in a widening war with Iran-allied militant groups across the region.

Displaced people were sheltering at the mosque that was struck near the main hospital in the central town of Deir al-Balah. A further four people were killed in a strike on a school sheltering displaced people near the town.

The Israeli military said both strikes targeted militants, without providing evidence. Israel is still battling Hamas in Gaza a year after the group's attack on Israel, and has opened a new front in Lebanon against Hezbollah, which has been trading fire with Israel along the border since the war in Gaza began. Israel has also vowed to strike Iran itself after Tehran launched a ballistic missile attack on Israel last week. The widening conflict risks drawing in the United States, which has provided crucial military and diplomatic support to Israel, as well as US-allied Arab countries that host American forces. Iran-allied militant groups in Syria, Iraq and Yemen have already joined in with long-distance strikes on Israel. (SEE PAGES 2, 9)

IRAN WARNS OF STRONGER RETALIATION

DAMASCUS: Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi said that Iran supports a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon, and warned Israel that his country would respond proportionately to any attacks, and if necessary, with greater force. In a press conference wrapping up his one-day visit to Syria, Araghchi reaffirmed Iran's commitment to standing by the "resistance" against Israel, noting that the country will continue its aid and coordination with Syria to support displaced Lebanese refugees, Xinhua news agency reported. "There are two urgent issues on our agenda: addressing the needs of Lebanese refugees and securing a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon," Araghchi said. IANS

5 Killed In Chennai Air Show

At least five persons, who were among thousands of spectators during the IAF air show at Marina Beach in Chennai, died of extreme exhaustion and other causes on Sunday. Several persons fainted and emergency workers carried them on stretches and provided care in shelters. — Photo: PTI

Farmer dies over crop loan waiver

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

A 59-year-old farmer from Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's home district — Mahabubnagar — died, reportedly of a cardiac arrest due to depression for not getting the crop loan waiver amount.

Somla from Uranc huthanda village took a loan from the bank last year. With interest, the loan amount reached Rs 87,300. He reportedly submitted the necessary documents for the loan waiver to the bank officials, and since then, he was waiting for his loan to be waived.

Somla's family members claimed that he used to always say that even though he was eligible for the crop loan waiver scheme, the government did not include his name on the beneficiaries list. He died due to cardiac arrest on Sunday as he was worried whether the loan waiver would come or not.

Harish exposes CM's claims on loan waiver

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Calling out the false claims of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on the implementation of the crop loan waiver in Telangana, former Minister and senior BRS leader T Harish Rao said the Congress government was deceiving both the people of Telangana and the nation.

He revealed that only 50 per cent of eligible farmers with accounts in the State Bank of India benefited from the scheme, despite fulfilling the eligibility criteria.

In an open letter to the Chief Minister following the former's letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi claiming successful implementation of the crop loan waiver, Harish Rao said the Chief Minister's claims of waiving loans up to Rs 2 lakh for farmers were blatantly false. The Congress, which promised to waive crop loans by December 9, 2023, extended the deadline until August 15, 2024, only to fail once again. Citing data from an RTI request, he revealed that of the 5,74,137 farmers with loans under Rs 1 lakh from SBI, only 2,99,445 had their loans waived. Similarly, of the 2,62,341 farmers with loans between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 1.5 lakh, only 1,30,915 benefited. Only 65,231 of the 1,65,607 farmers with loans between Rs 1.5 lakh and Rs 2 lakh had their loans waived. (SEE PAGES 2, 5)

> Only 50% of eligible farmers with accounts in the State Bank of India benefited from the scheme
>
> — T HARISH RAO, BRS LEADER

Diwali box-office clash

Singham Again banks on *parivaar* amidst clash with *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*

12

VHP wants Aadhaar must for *dandiya*

HYDERABAD: The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) State unit issued a diktat to make Aadhaar card mandatory for participants in garba and dandiya festivities during the nine-day Navratri in the State. In a statement, VHP national spokesperson R Shashidhar said festival organisers should make Aadhaar compulsory to verify credentials of participants. They should apply *tilak* (red vermillion) on the forehead and tie *kalva* (red thread) on the wrist, he said. He warned that the police and the government would be responsible for any untoward incident during the festival.

2kg human hair found in woman's stomach

LUCKNOW: Doctors in Bareilly have extracted 2 kg of human hair from inside a 21-year-old woman, who had been eating it for the last 16 years, plucking it on the sly whenever she would get a chance. Clinically diagnosed as trichophagia, or Rapunzel Syndrome, the psychological condition involves the victims picking their own hair for ingestion. The hair had completely "captured the cavity" of her stomach and even some part of her intestine, doctors said. The Kargaina resident was diagnosed with the condition on September 20 when the accumulation of hair was detected in a CT Scan. PTI

Rs 1,814 cr worth drugs seized from Bhopal factory

GANDHINAGAR

Authorities have seized Mephedrone (MD) drugs valued at Rs 1,814 crore from a factory in Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, said Gujarat Minister of State for Home, Harsh Sanghavi.

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Delhi, carried out the successful operation jointly, the Minister said, while praising the law enforcement teams' efforts.

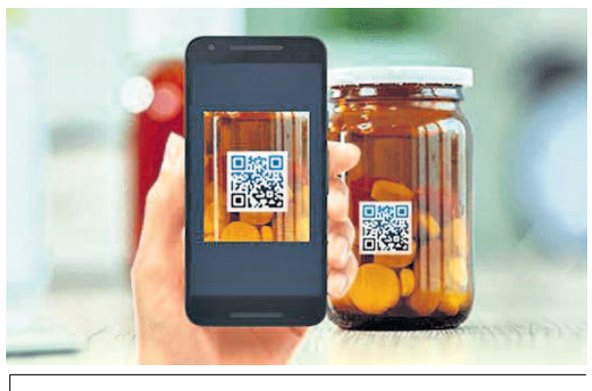
The Minister praised the relentless efforts of the law enforcement agencies, describing their work as "truly commendable". IANS

QR codes on anti-cancer drugs soon

M SAI GOPAL
Hyderabad

To discourage criminals from producing counterfeit anti-cancer drugs, very soon, drug manufacturers will start implementing mandatory QR codes on the packs of all the medicines meant for patients.

Based on reports and minutes of the recent meeting of the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) of the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), the move to provide QR codes on anti-cancer drugs was taken following reports that unscrupulous individuals were colluding with hospital pharmacies and refilling empty vials of expensive anti-cancer medicines with counterfeit drugs. The fake anti-cancer drugs, which are refilled in empty vials, are mixed with genuine stocks and sold to unsuspecting cancer patients, putting the lives of patients at risk. The fake or counterfeit drugs are sold at market prices, generating a windfall for the counterfeiters, but at the cost of the patients.



Officials say fake anti-cancer drugs, which are refilled in empty vials, are mixed with genuine stocks and sold to unsuspecting cancer patients

Strict instructions

The drug regulatory authorities decided to issue strict instructions to drug manufacturers to implement or provide QR codes on anti-cancer drugs. Apart from providing genuine information related to the stock of cancer drugs to the patients, the QR codes are also expected to enable the regulatory authorities to rigorously track and trace every vial and strip of the medication that is being marketed in India.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Ameerpet bus stop out of bounds

Hawkers and autorickshaws have encroached the Ameerpet Bus Stop .— Photo: Anand Dharmana

Catching a bus at Ameerpet has become a big challenge these days. Along the road side, several small businesses selling clothes and apparel have come up and they end up occupying considerable space at the point where the buses stop. One has to struggle through the maze to be able to get into a bus. Particularly, women passengers face the issue more.Adding to the woes of commuters, the place is also occupied by autorickshaws. The authorities should take steps to ensure that the place where the buses stop at Ameerpet is free of these obstacles. Either a RTC staffer or a traffic policeman can be deployed here to ensure that the autorickshaws do not enter the bust stop area and also efforts should be made to move or shift the road side shops from here.

— JYOTSNA REDDY, SR NAGAR

Waste littered outside OGH main gate

The vicinities of the main gate at the Osmania General Hospital these days are littered with waste of all sorts and present a pathetic picture. Particularly, such a sight is not acceptable in front of a hospital where scores of patients and their attendants come every day. From plastic waste to paper plates to wrappers and what not, the place where the two-wheelers are usually parked, stinks with nauseating odour. Hospital and immediate vicinities should reflect hygiene which is badly missing here. Hope the hospital authorities and also the civic authorities take note of this issue and take appropriate measures to sanitise the place.

— AVISHKAR AGGARWAL, BEGUM BAZAR

Need to upgrade bus shelters

The civic authorities need to urgently come up with a time-bound initiative to upgrade existing bus shelters and establish new ones wherever it is necessary. Since the initiative has a huge scope and involves lot of expenditure, the municipal officials should explore the possibility of collaborating with private companies, who can develop the shelters as a part of their CSR activities. I would also like to suggest that the authorities must take up the improvement of the bus shelters in a time bound manner so that inordinate delays can be avoided. There are numerous locations in Hyderabad where commuters are in dire need of bus shelters and it is the responsibility of the municipal officials to launch a major survey and identify the locations where new bus shelters have to be established and existing ones can be improved.

— ANSHUMAN BANERJEE , SECUNDERABAD

Write to us

Struggling with garbage piles that remain uncleared for days in the colony or bad road condition or short supply of drinking water? No post box, no shelter at bus stop or woes as a pedestrian on city streets. Want to draw attention towards lack of amenities in your area? Readers can highlight all such civic issues in the grievance column that appears every Monday by mailing us at 'city@telanganatoday.com

Uncleared Garbage at Dammagidau main road.

Uncleared garbage on Dammaiguda main road

The Dammaiguda main road, a crucial thoroughfare that connects Ghatkesar, Yadgirigutta, ECIL crossroads to Secunderabad and beyond, is littered with uncleared garbage for kilometres. On both sides of this main road, there are large sections where garbage is left unattended for months, which is a health hazard for the locals. Residents here have become habituated to dump their domestic waste on either side of the main road, making it a very unpleasant ride for thousands of commuters. With leftover garbage getting exposed to sunlight the garbage has dried up. As a result, during windy conditions, dried up waste and plastic covers keep flying on the road. The entire stretch of Dammaiguda main road has become dusty and stinks of garbage. I request the authorities to act on this issue at the earliest.

— B R RAGHAVENDRA , KEESARA

Traffic stoppages without prior alerts

Commuters travelling from Secunderabad to ECIL, Dr A S Rao Nagar, Sainikpuri, Alwal, Lothukunta and Bolarum, often face a strange situation when without any prior alert, the local military authorities stop the moving traffic all of a sudden. The sudden closure of roads, quite frequently at late nights and early mornings, happens at Karkhana crossroads, Lothukunta-Alwal, Military Hospital and approach roads to Army Public School and RK Puram flyover. The areas that frequently witness closure of free movement of vehicular traffic are curtailed at Karkhana crossroads Eagle Chowk, Ammuguda etc. There have been instances where the unannounced stoppage of vehicular movement causes traffic jams on the Karkhana main road at midnight leading to a lot of nuisance and frustration for public.

— P ADINARAYANA, ECIL

Incomplete road works at Nallakunta

The damaged streatch near Nallakunta vegetable market.

I wish to raise the issue of pending road laying works on the Nallakunta Vegetable Market Road, which has been in a state of disrepair over the last several months. The road has been dug for constructing an underground Nala. While the Nala works are completed, the road works are still pending, causing significant inconvenience to both commuters and pedestrians. The situation has worsened especially after the rain spell. Potholes filled with rainwater not only make driving hazardous but also pose a risk of accidents for pedestrians. People living in his locality are forced to navigate this bad road condition daily.

— RAMA KRISHNA RAO, NALLAKUNTA

RTC provide bus shelter near Secretariat

I wish to highlight the issue of the absence of a RTC bus shelter near the State Secretariat, much to the inconvenience of passengers. The bus travellers are often forced to stand on the road while waiting for the bus. The rainy reason has made matters worse for the commuters as there is no shelter to escape from the rain. Although there was previously a bus shelter near the Secretariat, due to some construction activity, it remains out of bounds for commuters. I urge the GHMC and the RTC authorities to address the issue promptly.

— A KUMARA SWAMY, PRIVATE EMPLOYEE

Urgent need to streamline traffic on Narne Road

Narne Road connecting Jubilee Hills with Shaikpet witnesses continuous traffic flow. Given the high volume of traffic on the road that meanders through a residential cluster, there is a need for authorities to streamline the movement of vehicles. Several side roads join the stretch from either side and vehicles emerge from them all of sudden and that too at a high speed. At times, cars roll out on to the main road from the residences dotting the stretch, without appropriate warning and giving anxious moments for other commuters. At the steep curve near Prashashan Nagar, the road is dug up and cordoned off for some work. However, given the steep drop, cars and bikes struggle here to slow down. The departments which are working here should complete the work early and clear the road.

— SANJAY SHARMA, JUBILEE HILLS

Time to tackle street dog menace

The street dog problem seems to have no solution. Packs of street dogs can be found roaming colonies, main roads and the highway too. The other night, while riding my bike from central university towards Serilingamaplly, I luckily escaped what could have been a major accident. While crossing the stretch opposite Doyens Township, a pack of fighting dogs from behind the road side shops, rushed on to the road and I almost ran into them on bike. To avoid hitting them, I applied sudden brakes, skid and fell down. I was very lucky that the driver of a bus coming from behind managed to screech his vehicle to a stop, else it would have ran over me. I request the municipal authorities to take measures to check the stray dog problem and save lives from such accidents.

— SAI CHARAN, SUDARSHAN NAGAR

Sunken manhole covers pose danger

Two manhole covers have caved in at the Mohammed Shukoor Kaman at Shakarganj in the old city. Due to this, there is a danger of children falling into the drain while walking on the flooded streets when it rains. Motorists too are also facing problems while negotiating the road because the road width has considerably reduced and leading to traffic jams.

Two cars cannot pass through the road at a particular point often leading to traffic chaos. The authorities are requested to immediately take measures and repair it.

— ZEESHAN KHAN, SHAKARGANJ

Broken manholes at Shakarganj

Auto drivers turn stuntmen, create fear

I wish to bring to the notice of the traffic police authorities that several autorickshaws are parked at CNG gas stations located at Chandrayangutta crossroads after midnight.

The auto drivers then gather in one vehicle and move around Santoshnagar, Jalpally, Mailardevpally, I S Sadan roads and do dangerous stunts on the road creating a fear among other road users. There were instances when the auto drivers behaved rudely with other road users who questioned them for misbehaviour. It is requested to please take action and prevent rash and negligent driving.

— SHAIK SAJID, HAFEEZ BABA NAGAR

Continuation from page 1

Jaishankar calls UN 'old company'

At an event on Saturday, the External Affairs Minister said that he was going to Islamabad for a "multilateral event" and not to discuss India-Pakistan relations.

In his response to a query on the United Nations' role amid the changing global scenario, he took a rather critical view of the world body that was born in 1945 after the Second World War. Initially, it had 50 countries, which has grown over these years to nearly four times. "The UN is in a way like an old company, not entirely keeping up with the market, but occupying the space. And, when it's behind times, in this world you have start-ups and innovations, so different people start doing their own things," Jaishankar said.

"So, what you have today is that yes you have a UN at the end, however suboptimal in functioning, it is still the only multilateral game in town," he added.

"But, when it doesn't step up on key issues, countries figure out their own ways of doing it. For example, let's take the last five-10 years, probably the biggest thing that happened in our life was Covid. Now, what did the UN do on Covid? I think the answer is — not very much," the Minister said. PTI

Strike on Gaza mosque kills 19

The Israeli military, meanwhile, announced a new air and ground offensive in Jabaliya, in northern Gaza, home to a densely populated refugee camp dating back to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation. It circulated photos and video footage showing a column of tanks heading toward the area. Israeli forces encircled Jabaliya as warplanes struck militant sites inside, the military said. Over the course of the war, Israel has carried out several large operations there, only to see militants regroup.

Israel reiterated its call, from the opening weeks of the war, for the complete evacuation of northern Gaza. Up to 3,00,000 people are estimated to have remained in the heavily destroyed north after earlier Israeli warnings that sent around a million fleeing to the south. "We are in a new phase of the war," the military said in leaflets dropped over the area. "These areas are considered dangerous combat zones."

Palestinian residents reported heavy Israeli strikes across northern Gaza. The Civil Defence — first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government — said several homes and buildings had been hit and they were not able to reach them because of the bombardment. Residents posted about the airstrikes and mourned their relatives on social media. Imad Alarabid said in a Facebook post that an airstrike on his home in Jabaliya killed a dozen family members, including his parents. Saeed Abu Elaish, a Health Ministry medic, said he was wounded and bleeding. "Pray for us," he wrote on Facebook. Hassan Hamd, a freelance TV journalist whose footage had aired on Al Jazeera and other networks, was killed in artillery shelling on his home in Jabaliya. Anas al-Sharif, an Al Jazeera reporter in northern Gaza, confirmed his death. AP

Harish exposes CM's claims on loan waiver

"Overall, nearly 50 per cent of eligible farmers, or over 5 lakh in total, have not seen any relief," he said. Harish Rao criticised the government's stringent conditions for loan waivers, which disqualified many farmers. To meet the conditions set by the Chief Minister, he said several farmers obtained private loans at high interest rates and paid loan amount excess that Rs 2 lakh to become eligible for the scheme, but did not get any relief.

Adding to their woes, the Revanth Reddy government skipped the disbursement of Rythu Bandhu investment support of Rs 7,500 crore to farmers for the Vanakalam (Kharif) season for the first time since its launch. Terming Revanth Reddy's claims far from the truth, the senior legislator urged the Chief Minister to honour his promises before making misleading statements to the nation.

QR codes on anti-cancer drugs soon

In addition to the QR codes for the anti-cancer drugs, the drug regulatory authorities also made it mandatory for major pharma companies, involved in producing drugs for other ailments, to provide bar codes.

Almost all major painkillers, antipyretics/analgesics such as Dolo, medicines for diabetics and vitamin supplements will also have bar codes, allowing the regulatory authorities to trace the drugs. To make sure pharma companies provide QR codes, the regulatory authorities proposed that Schedule H2 of Drugs Rules, 1945 be amended to include all anti-cancer medicines to have a mandatory provision to print and affix QR codes on labels.

State's revenue crisis deepens

Telangana's reliance on capital receipts, including market borrowings, also increased to Rs 29,467 crore, more than half of the annual target of Rs 52,815 crore. The State's total debt for the fiscal year stands at Rs 32,500 crore, nearing the yearly estimate of Rs 62,012 crore by the end of September.

Around 32% students avoid mid-day meals

Average coverage under PM-POSHAN scheme in TG decreased by 3.71 lakh

YUVRAJ AKULA
HYDERABAD

In an alarming trend, around 32 per cent of students were found to be staying away from the mid-day meals served in government and local body schools in the State. This has been uncovered in the Programme Approval Board (PAB) meeting of the PM-POSHAN (mid-day meal) for the year 2024-25 by the union Ministry of Education.

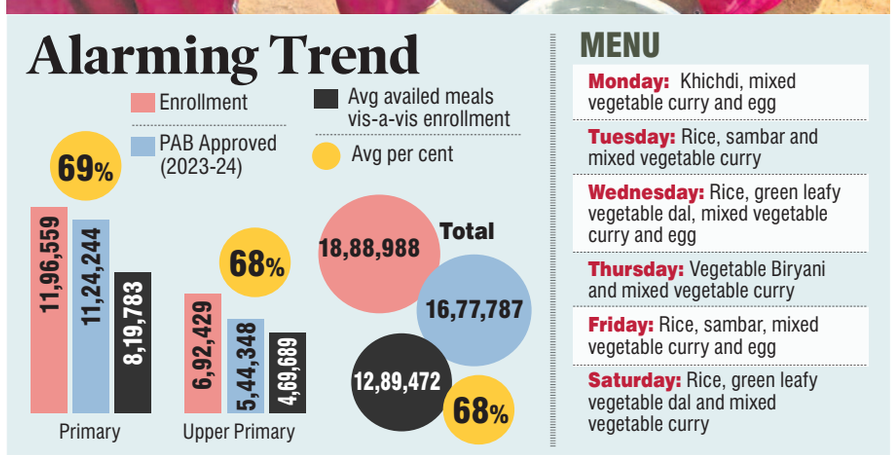
While 11,96,559 students were enrolled in primary schools, the scheme was approved for 11,24,244 and an average 69 per cent students took the meals out of the total enrolled during the academic year 2023-24. Similarly, out of 6,92,429 upper primary enrollment the scheme was approved for 5,44,348 and an average 68 per cent availed of the meals out of the total enrolled.

During the meeting, Department of School Education and Literacy Secretary and PAB Chairman Sanjay Kumar observed that the average coverage of students under the PM-POSHAN scheme decreased by about 3.71 lakh students from 2022-23 to 2023-24, and termed this alarming.

The report highlighted coverage of less than 60 per cent of enrolled students in districts of Hyderabad and Mulugu, in primary classes, and Hyderabad, Peddapalli, Mancherial, Bhadradri and Medchal in upper primary classes. The State was asked to identify reasons for low coverage and take corrective measures.

Students carrying their own lunch boxes from home is said to be one of the reasons for low mid-day meal coverage. According to a school headmaster, students at times find the food too tangy for their taste and unappealing, prompting them to carry their lunch boxes. Health issues also play a significant role in this trend. "Some parents pack lunch boxes for their wards as they think that home-cooked food is healthier than the mid-day meal served in the schools. Some students carry a curry from home and consume it along with the mid-day meal, giving them one more food variety," a headmaster said.

Meanwhile, the Telangana Gazetted Headmasters' Association urged the State government to implement a common menu for all government and welfare residential schools. "We have been asking for cooking supplies through tendering process as being done in the KGBVs and welfare residential schools. The government must enhance the cooking cost per child in the government schools on par with students in the KGBVs and welfare schools," said P Raja Bhanu Chandra Prakash, president Telangana Gazetted Headmasters' Association.



Dasara shopping bonanza gets good response

'Namasthe Telangana' AGM (advertisement) P Ramulu, KLM Fashion Mall sourcing in-charge V Mahesh Babu and NT deputy manager Sandeep Joshi during the NT-TT shopping bonanza daily lucky draw on Sunday.

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The 'Telangana Today' and 'Namasthe Telangana' Dasara Shopping Bonanza has been creating waves with positive response from shoppers. The offer of winning gifts in daily lucky draw has been a major success with shoppers and comes as a double dhamaka coupled with rebates offered by the outlets.

The fifth lucky draw was held at KLM Fashion Mall, Ameerpet, in the presence of customers on Sunday by mall sourcing in-charge V Mahesh Babu and 'Namasthe Telangana' advertisement AGM P Ramulu and deputy manager Sandeep Joshi.

The first prize of television was bagged by K Kavitha, who shopped at Cherma's, while the second prize of smartphone was won by J Raju, who shopped at KLM Fashion Mall, and the third prize of gift voucher went to Salona, who shopped at Cherma's.

P Ramulu said the nine-day shopping bonanza has been receiving stupendous response from shoppers. V Mahesh Babu said the number of shoppers participating in the lucky draw has been growing considerably across all KLM Fashion Mall outlets.

The shopping bonanza has KLM Fashion Mall as its main sponsor and is powered by Almond House, while Big C is the gift sponsor, TNews is the TV partner and S TV is the digital partner. The other partners are Kun Hyundai, Harsha Toyota, Orange Group, Manepally Jewellers, Bank of Baroda and Punjab National Bank.

In Brief

HYDERABAD
Cancer screening

For workers of the GHMC, a free cancer screening camp is being organised on October 8 from 9 am to 5 pm. GHMC Commissioner Amrapali Kata, in a press release, stated that the camp is being organised by Dr Vimalakar Reddy of Team Vimalakar Foundation in collaboration with KIMS and Sunshine Hospital. Among others, examinations such as ultrasound, abdomen, UGI endoscopy, sigmoidoscope proctoscopy, ECG and 2D-Echo X-ray will be conducted.

HYDERABAD
Man knocked down by bus

A 25-year-old man who was suspected to be in an inebriated state reportedly put himself in front of a moving RTC bus and got run over, at Jeedimetla on Sunday. According to the police, the unidentified man was walking on the Shahpuranagar road at around 9 am. On noticing a bus coming, he rushed towards it. "Even as people were watching, the man put himself in front of the bus. The driver applied brakes but could not control the vehicle. Eventually, the bus hit the man, who fell on the road and later died of injuries," Jeedimetla Sub-Inspector A Hareesh said. A case was registered and efforts were on to identify the man.

HYDERABAD
Construction worker killed

A construction worker died in a road accident at Mailardevpally in the city on Sunday. The victim, identified as Boinpally Raju (36), was a resident of Attapur and a native of Narayanpet district. He was going on a motorcycle when a lorry hit his vehicle. "On reaching Durganagar crossroads, a lorry coming from behind hit the bike. The man fell on the road and sustained head injuries. He died on the spot. The lorry driver was driving in a rash manner," Mailardevpally Sub-Inspector K Satya Kumar said. A case was registered against the lorry driver and an investigation taken up.

18 cyber crooks arrested in raids

Accused involved in 319 cases involving Rs 6.94 crore

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Hyderabad Police conducted raids across the country and nabbed 18 cyber fraudsters who were involved in various cybercrimes amounting to Rs 6.94 crore.

In a well-planned operation, six teams of the cybercrime unit of Hyderabad Police conducted the operation in various States including Karnataka, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

Nationwide raids

The teams caught Nikesh Bhati, Sanjay Biman Das, Yogesh Kumar, Devraj Chandrawat, Sunny alias Rohan Yadav, Amir Kashinath Jadhav, Arif Barkat Ali Shaikh, Saket Satish Tembhurne, Anna Gokul Dhage, Ajay Gopinath, Kapil Bhausaheb Nagare, Riddh Bedi, Sridhar, Uday Kumar, Varun Kumar, G Kaushik, Sameen Khan and Shaikul Khan.

Hyderabad City Police Commissioner CV Anand said the arrested persons were wanted in 319 cases across the country including 45 in Telangana. "After gathering information about their hideouts using technology and human intelligence, our teams planned and executed their arrest," Anand said.

Among the important cases registered, six pertain to investment fraud, one each case of digital fraud arrest, sextortion, OTP fraud and insurance fraud. The police seized Rs 5 lakh in cash, 26 mobile phones, 16 ATM cards, seven passbooks, 11 cheque books, 10 SIM cards, two laptops, two desktops and a hard disk. "An amount of Rs 1.61 crore has been frozen in the bank accounts of the suspects," Anand said.

The Hyderabad Police appealed to the public to exercise caution when sharing personal information online, particularly on investment platforms. Citizens were asked to be cautious about courier frauds, dating platforms and unauthorised trading apps and websites. "Do not send money to anyone out of fear or without verification. Report any suspicious activity to the police immediately," he added.

'Clarify stand on EWS quota'

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Economically Backward Classes Welfare Association (EBCWA), Central Committee, on Sunday demanded that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy immediately clarify the Congress government's stand on providing reservations to the poor among the forward castes under EWS.

Vallapureddy Ravinder Reddy, national president for EBCWA, Central Committee, criticised the government for keeping quiet on the issue. "The Supreme Court has supported 10 per cent reservation under EWS for the poorest of the poor among forward castes. There is an urgent need for the government to take a clear stand. People opposing the reservations must realise that poverty impacts people of all castes and religion," he said.

Razed To The Ground

Dwellings which were demolished as part of the Musi project in Shankarnagar in Hyderabad on Sunday.

Woman held for murdering labourer

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A woman who allegedly murdered a labourer nearly a week ago at KPHB was arrested by the Kukatpally police on Sunday. The police seized silver anklets, a laser blade and a two-wheeler from the suspect.

According to the police, suspect Katari Manjula (35), a resident of Yellamabanda, Jagadgirigutta, was known to victim Dharmaram Priyanka (23), a resident of KPHB Colony and native of Bodhan of Nizamabad. Priyanka had given her silver anklets and a chain to Manjula asking her to keep it safely. "Manjula did not return the ornaments to Priyanka leading to issues between them. Priyanka then called some of her male friends and threatened Manjula, who then agreed to return them," DCP Balanagar K Suresh Kumar said. On September 30, on the pretext of returning the ornaments, Manjula took Priyanka home and handed over the ornaments. "Manjula felt insulted over the developments and planned to eliminate her. She took Manjula to an isolated place at KPHB Colony where they drank liquor. Manjula using a blade slit Priyanka's throat," the DCP said. Police found the body on October 2.

State govt urged to protect geo-diversity sites

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Deccan Heritage Academy Trust (DHAT), in association with retired experts from the Geological Survey of India and Civil Society Groups, organised a 'Geo Heritage Trail' followed by a talk on geo diversity on the occasion of International Geo Diversity Day 2024 with the theme 'Conserving the Past – Sustaining the Future' at Fakhruddin Gutta (Khaja Hills), Khajaguda, on Sunday.

Prof Veda Kumar Manikonda, chairman, Deccan Heritage Academy, Kamatham Mahender Reddy, Director (Retd.,) GSI, Sri Ramoju Haragopal, Kottha Telangana Charitra Brundam, Chakkilam Venugopal Rao, Dy Director General (Retd.,) GSI, Soma Ram Murthy, Senior Scientist, (Retd.), Ramraj, landscape architect, Sakina, Save Rocks, Jajir Hussain, Member, Salarjung Museum, Vemuganti Murali Krishna, KTCB and Shobha Singh, Secretary, FBH were present.

Speaking on the occasion Vedakumar said the State government should take steps to protect geo-diversity sites keeping in view the importance of geological uniqueness by documenting, inventorising and conserving the sites for future generations and also ensuring that these sites get official recognition from UNESCO.

The speakers expressed concern over the extinction of natural rock formations which were millions of years old in lieu of development and strongly emphasised the preservation and conservation of various rock formations which were geological and physical elements of nature, according to a release.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public and all concerned are hereby informed that my client Sri Sukesh Kumar Mahenderkar, S/o. Late Sri Narsoji Balakrishna Mahenderkar, R/o. H.No. 1-31-955/1/1/B, Kanajiguda, Secunderabad - 500015, has entered into Agreement to purchase of all that residential house bearing SCB No. 3-6- 100, on Plot No.1, admeasuring 426.0 Sq.Yds., or equivalent to 356.13 Sq.Mtrs., alongwith built up area admeasuring 2575.5 Sq.ft., with RCC roof, in Sy.No.47/8, Swastika Building, situated at Boosareddyguda, Secunderabad Cantonment, Secunderabad, from its owner Sri Ramanujam Lakshmi Prasad, S/o. Late Sri Ramanujam Ranga Ramanujayya, R/o. H.No. 10-1-544, Entrenchment Road, East Marredpally, Secunderabad - 500026 and pursuant to the said Agreement my client has paid substantial amount towards advance and earnest money.

Any person (s), institutions, financial institutions having any right, interest, title or claim over the aforesaid property may contact the undersigned with all relevant documents in original in support of their claim within (7) days from the date of this Publication and thereafter my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction and objections if any raised thereafter will not be entertained.

Sd/- **G. RAM CHANDER**
Advocate
Off: at # 103, Sree Laxmi Plaza, H.No.1-7-1002/23, Ramnagar, Hyderabad.
Ph. No. (M) 9948079197.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public in General are hereby informed that. our client has entered into an Agreement of Sale with **SRI VYOMESH S.TURAKHIA S/o Late Sri Shashikant S.Turakhia R/o Flat No. C/6 on the Ground Floor, M. No. 4-1-10. Pragati Housing Society, Tilak Road, Hyderabad, T.S** for purchase his Shop No 15 on the Ground Floor admeasuring about 306 Sq Feet or 28.36 Sq. mts.. (super built up plinth area including the common areas) in Royal Plaza, in premises bearing M. No. 4-4-933 to 935 along with proportionate undivided share of land 12.56 Sq. yards out of 2820 Sq. yards situated at Sultan Bazar, Hyderabad. T S.. and paid him substantial advance amount towards advance sale consideration If any person/s having any rights, interests, claims, title, objections etc , with above said property and transactions, then shall contact the undersigned within 5 days from the date of publication of this notice, with all authenticable documents pertaining to their claims, etc. After expiry of said period our client shall proceed for the registration of sale deed/s and any objections. claim/s etc., received thereafter shall deem to have been waived and shall not be binding upon our said client.

Sd/- **M.K.SHARMA (AWASTHI)**
SHRUTI VORA
HARSH RAJ PUROHIT
Advocates
4-4-834, Sultan Bazar, Hyderabad-1.
Cell: 9490935534

NOTICE
BEFORE THE TELANGANA STATE COOPERATIVE TRIBUNAL: CHANDRA VIHAR COMPLEX: AT HYDERABAD
O.P. No. 31 OF 2023

Between:
The Metro City Criminal Courts Employees Mutually Aided Co-operative Credit Society Ltd., rep. by its Manager - cum - Recovery Executive Officer Smt. J. Premalatha Reddy ...Petitioner
And
Smt. Wajida Tabassum & others ...Respondents

To,
Smt. Wajida Tabassum, W/o. M. A. Subhan, aged about 56 years, Occ: Ex - Judicial Employee, R/o. Flat No. G-1, H. No. 10-4-38/35/1/B, Gulmohar Garden, S.D. Eye Hospital, Humayun Nagar, Hyderabad- 500028.

Please take Notice that our client The Metro City Criminal Courts Employees Mutually Aided Co-operative Credit Society Ltd., rep. by its Manager— cum — Recovery Executive Officer Smt. J. Premalatha Reddy has filed the above case vide O.P. No. 31/2023 on the file of the Hon'ble The Telangana State Co-Operative Tribunal, Chandravihar Complex, at Hyderabad against you and 2 others for recovery of Rs 25,15,154/- jointly and severally along with future interest thereon @ 7.50% P.A. including Penal Interest @ 2% P.M. and the same is posted to 30-10-2024 for your appearance. In spite of this Notification / Publication, if you fail to attend before the aforementioned Hon'ble Telangana State Co-Operative Tribunal on 30-10-2024 at 10.30 A.M, the Hon'ble Tribunal will be pleased to pass an appropriate Order in the above case.

(BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE TRIBUNAL
I.A. NO. 211/2024, DATED 18/09/2024)
Sd/- K.NANDAIAH, K.VINOD CHAKRAVARTHY,
Advocates
#1-8-522/36, Shop No.6&7 Ground floor, S.V's Papaiah Estate, Chikkadpally Hyderabad TS-500020. **Ph.9347219248**

NOTICE
BEFORE THE TELANGANA STATE COOPERATIVE TRIBUNAL: CHANDRA VIHAR COMPLEX: AT HYDERABAD
O.P. No. 32 OF 2023

Between:
The Metro City Criminal Courts Employees Mutually Aided Co-operative Credit Society Ltd., rep. by its Manager - cum - Recovery Executive Officer Smt. J. Premalatha Reddy ...Petitioner
And
Smt. Wajida Tabassum & others ...Respondents

To,
Smt. Wajida Tabassum, W/o. M. A. Subhan, aged about 56 years, Occ: Ex - Judicial Employee, R/o. Flat No 202, V V R Arcade,Tejaswi Nagar, Attapur, Rajendranagar Mandal, R. R. District - 500048

Please take Notice that our client The Metro City Criminal Courts Employees Mutually Aided Co-operative Credit Society Ltd., rep. by its Manager- cum - Recovery Executive Officer Smt. J. Premalatha Reddy has filed the above case vide O.P. No. 32/2023 on the file of the Hon'ble The Telangana State Co-Operative Tribunal, Chandravihar Complex, at Hyderabad against you and 2 others for recovery of Rs 5,78,132/- jointly and severally along with future interest thereon @ 9% P.A. including Penal Interest @ 2% P.M. and the same is posted to 30-10-2024 for your appearance. In spite of this Notification / Publication, if you fail to attend before the aforementioned Hon'ble Telangana State Co-Operative Tribunal on 30-10-2024 at 10.30 A.M, the Hon'ble Tribunal will be pleased to pass an appropriate Order in the above case.

(BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE TRIBUNAL
I.A. NO. 212/2024, DATED 03/10/2024)
Sd/- K.NANDAIAH, K.VINOD CHAKRAVARTHY,
Advocates
#1-8-522/36, Shop No.6&7 Ground floor, S.V's Papaiah Estate, Chikkadpally Hyderabad TS-500020. **Ph.9347219248**

NOTICE
BEFORE THE TELANGANA STATE COOPERATIVE TRIBUNAL: CHANDRA VIHAR COMPLEX: AT HYDERABAD
O.P. No. 33 OF 2023

Between:
The Metro City Criminal Courts Employees Mutually Aided Co-operative Credit Society Ltd., rep. by its Manager - cum - Recovery Executive Officer Smt. J. Premalatha Reddy ...Petitioner
And
Smt. Wajida Tabassum & others ...Respondents

To,
Smt. Wajida Tabassum, W/o. M. A. Subhan, aged about 56 years, Occ: Ex - Judicial Employee, R/o. Flat No 103, Moon Rock Apartments, Near NMDC, Masab Tank, Hyderabad- 500004.

Please take Notice that our client The Metro City Criminal Courts Employees Mutually Aided Co-operative Credit Society Ltd., rep. by its Manager - cum - Recovery Executive Officer Smt. J. Premalatha Reddy has filed the above case vide O.P. No. 33/2023 on the file of the Hon'ble The Telangana State Co-Operative Tribunal, Chandravihar Complex, at Hyderabad against you and 2 others for recovery of Rs 29,98,815/- jointly and severally along with future interest thereon @ 6% P.A. including Penal Interest @ 2% P.M. and the same is posted to 30-10-2024 for your appearance. In spite of this Notification / Publication, if you fail to attend before the aforementioned Hon'ble Telangana State Co-Operative Tribunal on 30-10-2024 at 10.30 A.M, the Hon'ble Tribunal will be pleased to pass an appropriate Order in the above case.

(BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE TRIBUNAL
I.A. NO. 213/2024, DATED 03/10/2024)
Sd/- K. NANDAIAH, K.VINOD CHAKRAVARTHY,
Advocates
#1-8-522/36, Shop No.6&7 Ground floor, S.V's Papaiah Estate, Chikkadpally Hyderabad TS-500020. **Ph.9347219248**

In Brief

HYDERABAD

Case against three over fake GPA

The Detective Department following directions of a court registered a case against three persons who had allegedly prepared false documents and managed to obtain succession order from the City Civil Court. The complaint was made by Princess Fatima Fouzia, daughter of Prince Muazzam Jah Bahadur. In the First Information Report (FIR), Princess Fatima Fouzia alleged that the three persons had fabricated a GPA and filed a succession suit. Fatima Fouzia in the FIR stated that the three persons had claimed land acquisition compensation and obtained a succession order illegally from the court. The police are currently investigating the fake document case.

Wheeling price rise to hit solar plants

Proposal, if approved, will increase burden on industries

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Wheeling charges on solar power plants in the State are likely to increase substantially as State-run power utilities have sent a proposal to the Telangana State Electricity Regulatory Commission (TGERC) to allow them to increase the existing wheeling charges.

Wheeling charges are the charges levied by the electricity department for the distance the electricity is transported. The electricity board applies this charge when electricity is generated at one location but consumed at another.

Currently, the Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana levies a wheeling charge of Rs 38.82 per kilowatt generated in solar plants of 33 KV capacity. It has now requested the ERC to allow it to increase the price to Rs 397. Similarly, the Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana has proposed to increase the current rate of Rs 72.29 to Rs 732.

Private players would have no other option but to shut down their plants, says Solar Power Plant Owners Association.

Discoms have been charging wheeling charges in three categories - 33 KV. 11 KV and low tension (LT). It has been proposed that from this year, these three will be changed to one category and the same charge will be charged. If this is implemented, LT category charges will be reduced and heavy financial burden will be imposed on 33 KV consumers. Most of the plants that use captive solar power are into open access business and sell to third parties at 33 KV level. That means, the financial burden on industries will be high if the discoms are allowed to increase the wheeling charges.

Meanwhile, Solar Power Plant Owners Association has submitted a representation to ERC Chairman T Sriranga Rao, urging him not to accept the proposals of discoms for an increase in wheeling charges. They said if the proposal was accepted, private solar power generators would have no other option but to shut down their plants.

New proposals along with aggregate revenue requirement (ARR) for 2024-25 were filed by the two discoms before the TGERC on September 18 by proposing the ARR at Rs 57,857 crore and put the revenue generation at Rs 44,835 crore, pegging the revenue gap at Rs 13,022 crore and seeking it from the State government in the form reimbursement/support in lieu of subsidies extended to agriculture and a other sectors.

If the proposal is accepted by the ERC, the High Tension (HT) category consumers will see a significant increase in their electricity charges. Both energy and fixed charges for HT consumers will go up. For those using loads at 33 KV and 132 KV/above, the charges will now be similar to those for consumers using 11 KV. The fixed charges for HT consumers will rise from Rs 475 to Rs 500 per KVA.

Tension prevails as cops try to foil BRS *dharna*

BRS leader Koppula Eshwar and other party leaders being forcibly evicted by the police.

STATE BUREAU
PEDDAPALLI

Mild tension prevailed in Godavarikhani town when the police prevented an attempt by the BRS to stage dharna at Gandhi Chowk on Sunday. The agitation was to demand an adequate share for workers in the profits of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited.

Both the BRS and its trade union Telangana Boggu Ghani Karmika Sangham had decided to stage the dharna at Godavarikhani demanding a 33 per cent share for workers from the 2023-24 financial year profits of SCCL. While they were trying to set up a tent, a large number of police personnel rushed to the spot and prevented them stating there was no permission. A jostle followed between the agitating party workers and the police when the latter removed the tent.

In protest against the police attitude, former Minister Koppula Eshwar, BRS district president and former MLA Korukanti Chander, former legislators Putta Madhukar and Nadipalli Diwakar Rao, TBGKS president Miryala Rajireddy and others staged a sit-in at the spot. They raised slogans against the State government and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. Later, they continued the dharna at the TBGKS office. Eshwar said the Congress party, which came to power by cheating the people, was now trying to cheat Singareni workers. Though the company got profits of over Rs 4,701 crore in the financial year 2023-24, Singareni Collieries Company Limited had announced 33 per cent share from only Rs 2,412 crore, setting aside the remaining amount for expansion. They were demanding the company to give 33 per cent share from the total profit.

Of Peace & Tranquility

Lord Malayappa adorned as Yoga Narasimha was taken around the Mada streets on the third day of the Brahmotsavams in Tirumala.

C'garh encounter: Police step up border vigil

SANTOSH PADALA
Mancherial

Police have stepped up vigil along the banks of Pranahita and on the borders of Telangana to prevent entry of Maoists into the State following the Chhattisgarh encounter.

Police have also intensified combing operations to thwart any attempts by Maoists to sneak into Telangana from Maharashtra by crossing the Pranahita river. They are also sharing information with their counterparts in Maharashtra regularly.

"Police personnel have been deployed on the borders of Telangana to prevent Maoists from entering Mancherial district in search of shelter in the wake of the encounter. Anti-sabotage checks, area domination, aerial viewing by drone cameras, etc, are simultaneously being taken up as part of steps to prevent any effort by naxals to move into Telangana," a senior police officer said.

As part of efforts to prevent the entry of Maoists, police are also keeping a tab on ferry points on the shores of Pranahita in Vemanapalli and Kotapalli mandals by using CCTV surveillance. Locals and fishermen were requested to share movements of strangers. Police have intensified patrolling in Vemanapalli, Kotapalli and Chennur mandals. Sources in the Police Department opined that the injured extremists might not opt Telangana for shelter considering the improved communication system and road connectivity in rural parts. They reasoned that the district, once a stronghold, neither registered activities of Maoists nor their entry from Maharashtra in recent times.

On March 19, naxals identified as Vargeesh, a secretary of Mangi-Indervelli, Kumram Bheem and Mancherial Divisional Committee (MIKBMDVCM); Magtu, a member of Sirpur-Chennur Area Committee, and Kursang Raju and Kudimetta Venkatesh, both platoon members, were killed in an exchange of fire between police and the Maoists at Kolamarka hillocks near Rapanpalli village in Aheri Taluq of Maharashtra.

On December 3, a naxal couple was apprehended by a special team at Indaram.

Yashoda hosts 'Nodule Summit'

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Over 500 pulmonologists from across the country took part in the 'Nodule Summit 2024', a two-day international conference organised by Yashoda Hospitals, Hitec City, in which approach to diagnosis and management of lung nodules was discussed.

A 'Lung Nodule Clinic', conceptualised by Dr V Nagarjuna Maturu, Head, Pulmonary Medicine, Yashoda Hospitals, where patients with lung nodules would be given the correct diagnostic approach and therapy, was inaugurated by Dr Pavan Gorukanti, Director, Yashoda Group of Hospitals. "In most instances, lung cancer is diagnosed when it has advanced," experts said.

BRS lodges complaints against Congress smear campaign

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Angered over the repeated false and malicious social media posts targeting BRS working president KT Rama Rao, party leaders filed complaints at various police stations across the State on Sunday. They pointed out that the Congress party was orchestrating the smear campaign and demanded stringent action against those responsible for the misinformation campaign. The BRS leaders of Nizamabad led by party district president A Jeevan Reddy lodged complaints with the Nizamabad Police Commissioner, seeking action against the perpetrators. Similar complaints were filed in Hyderabad, where Goshamahal constituency leader Ashik Kumar Yadav and others filed a complaint with the local ACP at the Central Crime Station. Youth wing leaders of the BRS filed complaints in Sircilla, Warangal and several other places with the local police in this regard.

They said the Congress party was running the smear campaign as a diversionary tactic to cover up its inability to deliver its electoral promises.

They pointed out the irony of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy decrying propaganda against his party, while allowing his own social media team to attack Rama Rao. The BRS leaders warned that if the defamatory posts continued, they would respond aggressively to defend their leader.

'Will inspect Secretariat, other bldgs'

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Kicking up a fresh row, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said the State government was ready to take up inspection of the Secretariat, Amara Jyothi Martyrs Memorial and other constructions built by the previous BRS governments in terms of quality of work.

He said the government would appoint technical experts to examine the quality of work of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme and other barrages and projects taken up by the BRS government. Alleging that the Kaleshwaram project suffered several damages despite enhancing its cost from Rs 38,000 crore to Rs 1.5 lakh crore in the name of redesigning, he claimed that there was no detailed project report for the project.

Speaking after distributing appointment letters to 1,635 candidates selected in various exams conducted by TGPSC, the CM said they would be tasked with major projects such as the RRR, radial roads and Musi project. Appointment letters will be given to 11,063 candidates, who qualified the DSC exam, on October 9, he said.

Pangolin rescued, five arrested

STATE BUREAU
Warangal

A pangolin was rescued and five persons were arrested in Warangal for allegedly trying to sell it in an international market.

The creature was rescued in a joint operation carried out by Wildlife Justice Commission (WJC) India team and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) southern region, Chennai. There was a likelihood of seizing another pangolin as investigation was on, said an official statement on Sunday.

The pangolin that was rescued in a joint operation.

It was said that there were nine accused in two different groups. According to WCCB, as soon as they caught hold of the first group with one pangolin, the other group of six persons disappeared. After extensive searches two more persons were arrested.

Thati Rajkumar, Mohammed Nazeer and Mohd Amzath Khan of Kataram, Gattu Sammaiah of Mahamutharam, Nariveddi Venkata Narayana of Bhupalpally district were produced before the court for judicial custody. Three accused Thallapally Shankar, Peddi Lakmaiah and Urugonda Devanna alias Devaiah were absconding.

Northeast culture shines at Rashtrapati Nilayam

BISWAJIT TALUKDAR
Hyderabad

As visitors stepped into the Bharatiya Kala Mahotsav at Rashtrapati Nilayam, Bolaram, the vibrant colours and rhythmic beats of the Northeast enveloped them.

Each of the eight Northeastern States — Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura — set up pavilions where visitors could engage with artisans, observe traditional crafts and purchase handmade products.

Live demonstrations of weaving, wood carving and jewellery assembling allowed visitors to get a hands-on experience with the region's cultural legacy.

The food stalls at the venue offered delicacies from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Sikkim, Meghalaya and Tripura.

Primula Bhandari, an artist and entrepreneur from Malbasey, Sikkim, showcased her stunning Buddhist thangka paintings made using natural pigments on canvas. The daughter of former Sikkim Chief Minister Nar Bahadur Bhandari and Sikkim's woman MP Dilkumari Bhandari, Primula said, "It's a humbling experience. I hope my journey inspires women from villages to understand that hard work and dedication can lead to success."

Each of the eight Northeastern States set up pavilions where visitors could engage with artisans, observe traditional crafts and purchase handmade products.

Rajiv Saikia, an enthusiastic travel entrepreneur from Assam, eagerly engaged with the crowd, sharing stories of the unexplored beauty of the Northeast. Representing his travel company, Eastern Voyages, he offered glimpses into the breathtaking landscapes and cultural richness of the region. The eight-day celebration of the region's rich and diverse cultural heritage was jointly organised by Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region and the Ministry of Culture.

By Saturday, it had drawn 78,000 visitors, with organisers expecting the total footfall to exceed 80,000 by the festival's end on Sunday.

From Assam, entrepreneur Enakshee Barua Sarma of Soundarya Laharee appreciated the festival's arrangements, especially the support from the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation Limited (NEHHDC). The traditional Assamese attire, including mekhela sador and eri silk sarees, drew a lot of attention. "The crowd is eager to learn about our culture. It's overwhelming," she said.

Pari Yendrembam, a 24-year-old dressed in traditional Manipur attire, proudly represented the Meitei community and visitors eagerly snapped photos of him.

"It's been wonderful connecting with people here. They were excited to learn about our culture, and I'm honoured to represent Manipur," he shared.

KTR blames govt for farmer suicides

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Sunday held the Congress government responsible for the suicides of three paddy farmers in the State, all on Saturday. He criticised the government's negligence toward the farming community, stating that both land-owning farmers and tenant farmers were suffering due to a lack of support.

In a statement, Rama Rao said the ongoing irrigation crisis, coupled with the incomplete crop loan waiver and the absence of the Rythu Bharosa scheme, had left hundreds of farmers in a lurch, with many taking out their lives. "Farmers are dying by suicide due to the crisis, yet the government remains unmoved. The Chief Minister shows no empathy, and there is no sense of responsibility from the administration," he remarked. He warned that farmers would hold Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy accountable for the government's anti-farmer policies and punish him for betraying them with his failure to deliver promises.

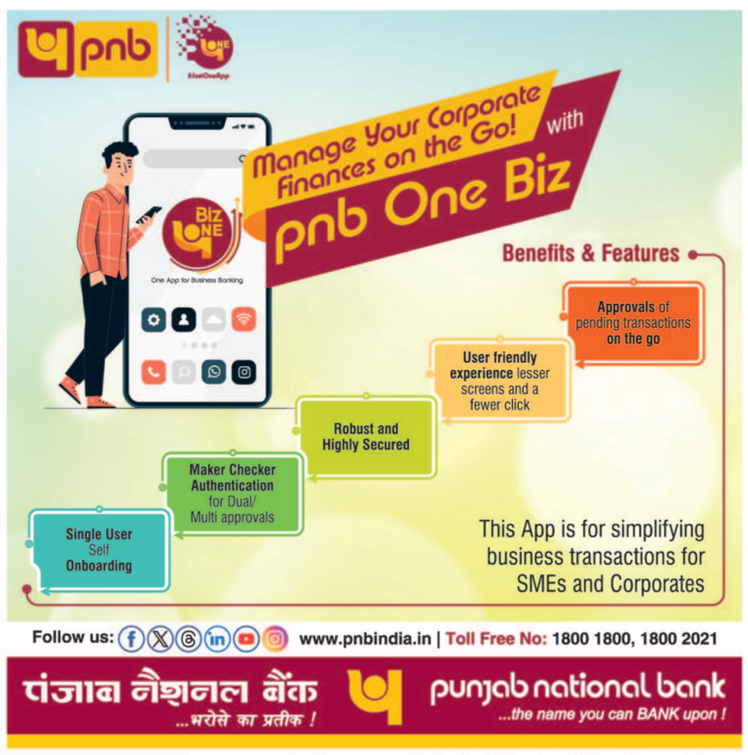
Urging farmers not to lose hope, he exuded confidence that the farmers would overcome the crisis. "Bad days will pass, and good days will come again. Jai Kisan!" the BRS leader posted on X.

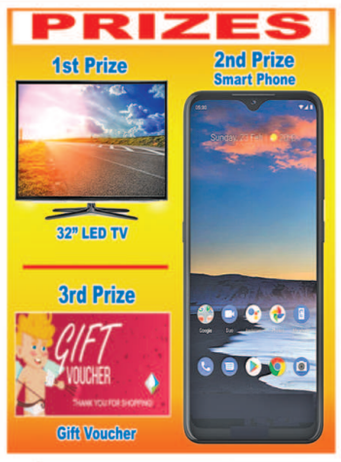
Loan waiver covered 22.22 L ryots, CM to Modi

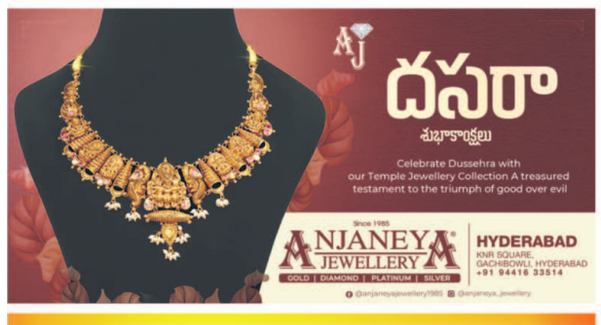
STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

In an attempt to prove Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrong, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy wrote to Modi on Sunday, in the process, admitting that the crop loan waiver implemented by the Congress government covered only 22.22 lakh farmers and that it would be extended to the remaining farmers after they clear the amount above Rs 2 lakh limit. He said the State government had disbursed Rs 17,869.22 crore towards the crop loan waiver.

In response to the Prime Minister's allegations that the Congress government failed to implement the crop loan waiver, Revanth Reddy claimed that the State government had implemented the scheme successfully within its first year of governance. "Every crop loan below Rs 2 lakh was waived totally as promised," he said, adding that farmers who had a loan above Rs 2 lakh would get the waiver once they cleared the amount above the Rs 2 lakh limit. He claimed that farmers in Telangana believed that "Congress Guarantee was a Golden Guarantee" and hoped that his initiatives served as a model for other States in prioritising agriculture sector. He also sought the PM's cooperation and guidance to promote farmers' welfare in Telangana.







S.No.	Gift	Winner Name	Coupon No.
1	32" LED TV	K. Kavitha	036023
2	Smart Phone	J. Raju	041418
3	Gift Voucher	Salona	035752

Telangana Today
FOR LOCAL TO GLOBAL NEWS

"The government has no clear blueprint for the One Nation, One Election initiative. It's all guesswork. Such moves are a mockery of both the Constitution and democracy

RASHID ALVI
Congress leader

The UN is like an old company, not entirely keeping up with the market but occupying the space. And, when it's behind times, you have startups... So, different people start doing their own things

S JAISHANKAR
External Affairs Minister

The double-engine concept has failed nationwide. One engine broke down in June and now the second engine will fail in Haryana, J&K, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand"

ARVIND KEJRIWAL
AAP National Convenor

Temper expectations

While the excitement in diplomatic circles over the upcoming visit of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to Pakistan to attend a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is quite understandable, there is a need to temper the expectations in view of the harsh realities on the bilateral front. It is highly unlikely that the two countries would engage in bilateral talks of any kind on the sidelines of the SCO summit. When Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who was then Pakistan's Foreign Minister, visited Goa last year to participate in the two-day meeting of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers, there was no bilateral engagement between the two countries as the event was focused exclusively on the SCO activities. However, this time around, Jaishankar's visit to Islamabad, the first by a high-ranking Indian minister after a gap of nine years, serves as good optics for both countries. In 2015, then External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj led the Indian delegation to the Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference on Afghanistan held in Islamabad. While India chaired the SCO in 2023, Pakistan will host this year's summit on October 15-16. The SCO is a valuable platform that should not be allowed to become a hostage to bilateral tensions. The meeting in Islamabad is being held at a time when Pakistan is gripped by political turmoil in the wake of protests by supporters of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan and massive restrictions are in place in the national capital to check rioting.

> It is highly unlikely that India and Pakistan will engage in bilateral talks of any kind on the sidelines of SCO summit

Apart from domestic instability, rising security concerns and economic crisis, Pakistan's relations with India continue to be under severe strain. Instead of taking credible measures to dismantle terror infrastructure on its soil, Pakistan sought to interfere with India's domestic affairs when it downgraded ties with New Delhi in 2019 following the abrogation of Article 370 that ended J&K's special status. India has said it desires normal relations with Pakistan but the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment free of terror and hostility for such an engagement. In fact, the bilateral ties have been in deep freeze since the Pulwama terror attack and the retaliatory Balakot airstrikes of February 2019. India has been consistent in its stand that the resumption of bilateral dialogue is not possible until Islamabad stops supporting terrorism. Pakistani rulers must realise that their obsession with Kashmir will not lead them anywhere. Cross-border terrorism is the single most important issue that needs to be tackled for the normalisation of bilateral ties. The only option before it to resume dialogue with India is by uprooting terrorist groups. There is a growing realisation across the world that Pakistan has become a hub for global terror and that it continues to pursue the policy of using terrorism as an instrument of state policy to foment trouble in India.

Farming in cities

As we face food insecurity, integrating farming into urban ecosystem presents a chance at the defined future

VIIVECK VERMA

In the midst of asphalt, concrete and skyscrapers, a quiet revolution takes root — literally.

Walking through a bustling city, imagine stumbling upon a rooftop or vacant lot with lush greens or a thriving garden. Unexpected patches of greenery are more than just an urban trend; they are the pulse of a movement changing the idea of what it means to live in a city. What was once considered a hobby of country hicks is now sprouting in the most unlikely urban spaces. This tendency to bring agriculture back to urban environments is not only about food production but also about cultivating more sustainable life practices.

Urban Farming

Urban farming is the production and development of crops within a city framework, including rooftop gardening, community gardens, use of the vertical space in urban structures and more. This burgeoning movement, rooted in both tradition and innovation, has emerged as the new frontier for sustainability in cities grappling with food insecurity, environmental depletion and social inequality in the urban centres of the world.

One of the most striking examples of urban farming's potential is Singapore, a city-state with limited land but a strong commitment to food security. Through initiatives like the '30 by 30' goal, Singapore aims to produce 30% of its nutritional needs locally by 2030. Urban farms, such as those managed by Sky Greens and Edible Garden City, are leading the charge by growing vegetables in vertically stacked systems and utilising underused urban spaces, from rooftops to vacant lots.

Similarly, Detroit, a city that has seen socioeconomic decline and population attrition, has leveraged urban agriculture for revitalisation. What used to be considered 'empty' spaces of derelict or abandoned properties in urban centres are now being converted into urban farms and gardens. For instance, the Michigan Urban Farming Initiative (MUFI) has a three-acre farm in Detroit that provides fresh food to the people of the city and is a model for urban agriculture and community-led farming.

Environmental Benefits

Urban farming plays a crucial role in reducing the environmental footprint of cities. Traditional agriculture often involves transporting food over long distances, and by growing food locally, urban farms help reduce the carbon footprint associated with food transportation, also known as 'food miles'; a concept from the 1990s which is calculated as the distance travelled by any food before it reaches your plate. The existing transportation of food is about 12% of the carbon cost of the food we eat.

Urban farms can enrich biodiversity in cities by providing habitats for pollinators such as bees and butterflies. This is particularly important in urban areas where green spaces are scarce and wildlife habitats fragmented. For instance, the largest rooftop vegetable farm called Brooklyn Grange in New York City provides not only fresh vegetables but also contributes to the habitat of necessary fauna.

Urban farming also plays a role in managing urban waste. Many urban farms use compost derived from food waste, thus reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills and contributing to a circular economy. Take for instance, the Bios Urn project in Barcelona, which uses organic waste to fertilize plants grown in urban spaces, hence completing the cycle of consumption. Some organic waste also includes loved ones' ashes, returning humans to nature, also serving as living memorials of the dead.

Economic, Social Impacts

Beyond environmental benefits, urban farming supports local employment and economies. In cities where food deserts —areas with limited access to affordable, nutritious food — exist, urban farms provide a reliable source of fresh food within reach.

The social impact of urban agriculture is also significant. Community gardens and urban farms function as loci of social interaction, where community relations are nurtured. They act as learning centres for issues of agriculture, nutrition and environmental stewardship. Additionally, urban farming can be a tool for social justice, addressing issues of food insecurity and inequality. In Los Angeles, the South Central Farm, a 14-acre urban garden set up by low-income families, became a political symbol of land and food despotism in a marginalised neighbourhood. Despite the farm's controversial eviction in 2006, its legacy continues to inspire similar initiatives focused on social equity.

Future Directions

Despite its numerous advantages, urban agriculture encounters substantial obstacles impeding its full realisation. Limited land availability within populated urban environments constitutes a primary challenge, exacerbated by financial constraints and complex regulatory frameworks. Moreover, the issue of soil contamination, particularly in post-industrial cities is something urban farmers struggle with. But these challenges are not insurmountable. New techniques like, vertical farming and hydroponics, are addressing land constraints by allowing crops to be grown in smaller, controlled environments. Public policy support is also crucial. Cities like Toronto have zoning laws that favour urban farming, while Paris has set ambitious targets for green roofs and urban agriculture as part of their climate action plans.

> Singapore, a city-state with limited land but a strong commitment to food security, aims to produce 30% of its nutritional needs locally by 2030

The Indian government too, is starting to recognise the potential of urban farming and has only recently incorporated it into broader urban planning strategies. The Smart Cities Mission encourages cities to integrate urban agriculture into their development plans. Chennai and Pune have included rooftop gardens and urban farms in their smart city proposals and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has introduced policies in favour of rooftop farming. These are as yet nascent, but they represent the start of a growing awareness.

The future of urban farming lies in its integration into the urban ecosystem. As we face climate change, population growth and food insecurity, this integration presents a chance at the defined future. By harnessing the power of urban farming, cities can not only feed their populations but also turn themselves into vibrant, green and connected spaces, and better equipped to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

(The author is founder & CEO, Upsurge Global, co-founder, Global Carbon Warriors, and Adjunct Professor, EThames College)

Letters to the Editor

Important step

The Supreme Court decision against prejudice based on caste in jails is a major step towards ensuring that everyone is treated with dignity and equality. But how can we make sure that every State implements these changes in an effective way? Concerns regarding the extent of social injustice are raised by the practices from the colonial past that remain present in jail manuals. What steps will be implemented to monitor compliance and permanently end this prejudiced conduct? An important first step, but more work needs to be done.

ANSHU BHARTI,
Begusarai, Bihar

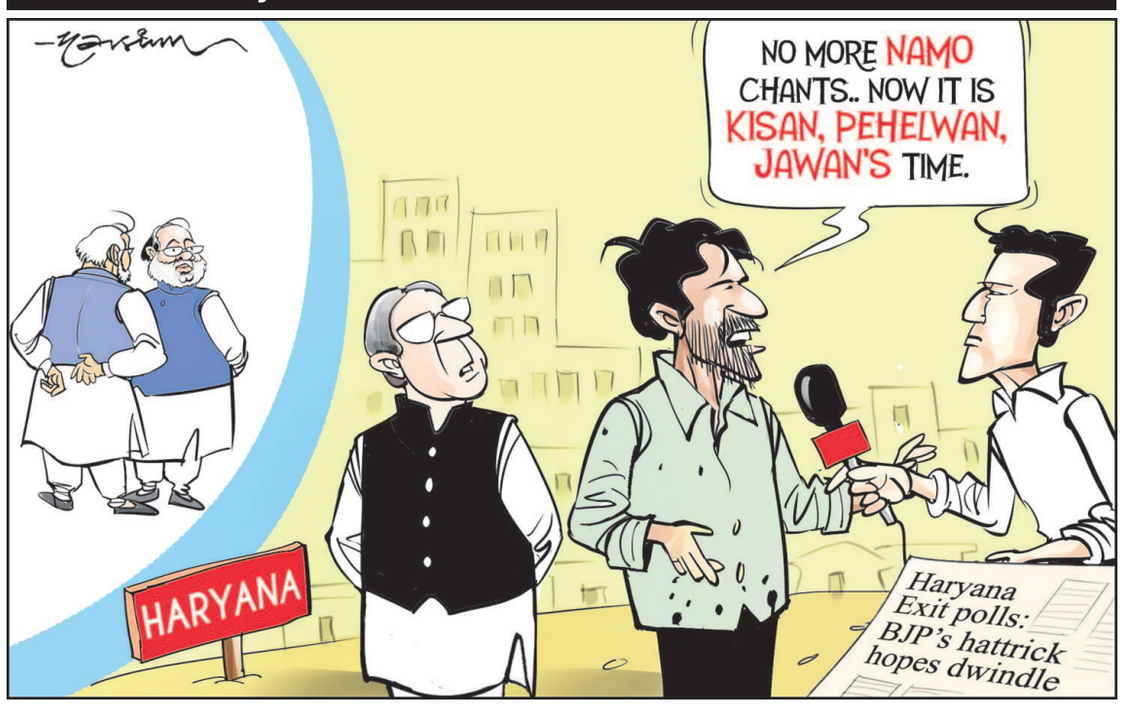
Science in India

Politicisation and bureaucratisation of science, lack of adequate R&D facilities due to very low funding by the government, lack of faith of the industry in the capabilities of Indian scientists, most of the R&D being done in India is for publishing papers to get promotion, high GST rates on imported equipment, favouritism in allotting R&D work ignoring capable scientists are some of the reasons why India does not excel in science. Also the country does not have a full-fledged Minister for Science and Technology as the present one has multiple portfolios. Our scientific system needs a major overhaul to excel in R&D.

O PRASADA RAO,
Hyderabad

Write to us at letters@telanganatoday.com

Cartoon Today



India in the hotspot

■ BBC

Polish artist who painted Hindu gods

In the year 1939, as German tanks invaded Poland, famous Polish artist Stefan Norblin and Lena arrived in colonial India. Their stopover resulted in the unlikely collaboration between the artist and Indian maharajas.

■ The Economist

Unique opportunity to lead in AI

Hindi is the world's most widely spoken language after English and Mandarin. Yet it constitutes only 0.1% of all freely accessible content on the internet. That is one obstacle to India developing its generative AI models.

■ Washington Post

Indian troops kill 31 suspected Maoist

At least 31 suspected Maoist rebels were killed in a battle with Indian troops. The fighting erupted when counterinsurgency troops cornered nearly 50 suspected rebels in the Abhujmaad forest area in Chhattisgarh state.

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J&K parties make light of exit polls

NC's Omar Abdullah calls it 'pass time exercises'

IANS
SRINAGAR

Almost all political leaders except those belonging to Congress have dismissed the exit polls with former J&K Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) vice president, Omar Abdullah calling these 'pass time exercises'.

Senior most J&K politician, Dr Farooq Abdullah plainly said, "I don't trust these exit polls." His son and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said, "I'm amazed channels are bothering with exit polls, especially after the fiasco of the recent general elections. I'm ignoring all the noise on channels, social media, WhatsApp Etc because the only numbers that matter will be revealed on the 8th of Oct. The rest is just time pass".

Tarun Chugh, national general secretary and BJP in charge of J&K polls said, "Outcome will defy the findings of the exit polls."

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader, Zuhaib Mir said, "As far as we are concerned, exit polls are not a serious activity but time pass activity. PDP is confident that it will be an indispensable and important part of the secular government that will form in J-K. PDP will have an important role in forming any secular government. We had said that we are ready to take any step to save the identity of Kashmir but for this, it is important that we formulate a secular government, a government against BJP not with them."

J&K Congress president Tariq Hameed Karra with party candidates during a meeting, in Jammu, on Sunday. — Photo: PTI

Lok Sabha member and president of Awami Itihad Party (AIP), Engineer Rashid said, "Everybody is at liberty to have an exit poll. They know better what was the criteria. Let us wait for October 8, as I've never relied on exit polls."

Interestingly, Congress is the only political party that expressed confidence on the numbers predicted for the party by the exit polls. JKPCC president, Tariq Hameed Karra said, "The projections by various exit polls has vindicated the stand of the Congress and proved the public anger against the BJP."

It must be mentioned that most polls have shown the Congress-NC staying ahead in the race but failing to cross the magic number, thereby leading to the possibility of a hung House in the 90-member Assembly. A Poll of polls shows the Congress-NC alliance fetching 43 seats, three less than the majority mark of 46.

According to India Today-C Voter exit polls, the NC-Congress alliance is projected to win between 40-48 seats while the BJP is likely to bag 27-32 seats. Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP is seen fetching 6-12 seats while others are seen pocketing another 6-12 seats, an unusually high strike rate for Independent candidates in the valley.

According to Dainik Bhaskar, Congress-NC combine is expected to emerge as the largest alliance, however, staying short of the halfway mark. The alliance is seen bagging 35-40 seats, the BJP getting 20-25 while PDP managing with just 4-7 seats. Others including Independents are seen emerging as big players in this exit polls, as they are projected to claim victory in as many as 16 seats.

Peoples Pulse exit poll gives the NC-Congress alliance a clear mandate, with its numbers crossing the halfway mark. It is expected to get 46-50 seats while the BJP will be reduced to 23-27 seats and the PDP will get 7-11 seats. All the polling agencies have predicted a clear majority for the BJP in the Jammu region, however Congress-NC tie-up is also seen posing a challenge in the region. In the Kashmir Valley, people's mandate is seen heavily tilted towards the NC-Congress alliance while the PDP is failing to repeat its clout, like earlier.

Wangchuk sits on fast for Ladakh statehood

NEW DELHI

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on Sunday sat on a fast at the Ladakh Bhawan where he was staying, after the protesters were denied permission to stage the stir for Ladakh's Sixth Schedule status at Jantar Mantar.

Wangchuk, in a brief interaction with media before starting the fast, said they were forced to stage the protest at the Ladakh Bhawan after failing to find any venue for their stir. Around 18 people, including Wangchuk, sat close to the gate of the Ladakh Bhawan, singing the Hindi version of 'We Shall Overcome', and raised slogans such as 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai", "Jai Ladakh" and "Save Ladakh, Save Himalaya".

On Sunday, Wangchuk took to 'X' to say they have been denied permission to sit on a fast at Jantar Mantar. "Another rejection, another frustration. Finally this morning we got this rejection letter for the officially designated place for protests," Wangchuk said.

The climate activist led the 'Delhi Chalo Padayatra', which began in Leh a month ago.

The march was organised by Leh Apex Body, which along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance, has been spearheading an agitation for the last four years seeking statehood for Ladakh. PTI

Seven perish in Mumbai fire

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde visits the site of fire, at Siddharth Colony in Mumbai on Sunday. — Photo: PTI

MUMBAI

Seven persons, including three minors, were killed after a fire broke out in a double-storey shop-cum-residential structure in Mumbai on Sunday morning, a fire official said. The incident took place at 5.20 am at Siddharth Colony in Chembur area, he said.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde visited the site. He announced a high-level probe into the incident and a compensation of Rs 5 lakh for the kin of the deceased. The ground floor of the structure was used as a shop and the upper floor as residence, an official said. The blaze was confined to the electric wiring and installations in the shop at ground floor and spread to the upper floor, he said, adding it was a 'level-one' fire.

Seven persons were injured in the incident. They were taken to the Rajawadi Hospital where all of them were declared brought dead, the official said. Fire engines, water tankers and other assistance were rushed to the spot and the blaze was doused by 9.15 am, the official said.

The deceased have been identified as Paris Gupta (7), Manju Prem Gupta (30), Anita Gupta (39), Prem Gupta (30), Narendra Gupta (10), Vidhi Chediram Gupta (15) and Gitadevi Dharam dev Gupta (60), he said.

CM Shinde visited the site and met family members of the victims. Later, talking to reporters, he said the incident was very unfortunate. The Chief Minister announced a high-level probe in the incident and a compensation of Rs 5 lakh for the kin of the deceased. The cost of treatment of the injured persons will be borne by the government, he said. If the slum rehabilitation work has run into hurdles, the issues would be looked into, he added. PTI

In Brief

BAHRAICH

Villagers kill sixth wolf

The last one of the pack of six wolves that had created terror in Mahsi tehsil has been killed by the locals in Tamachpur village of this district, officials said. The wolf killed late on Saturday night under the Ramgaon police station area is a female and not lame as suspected earlier. The wolf's body has been sent for post-mortem, the officials said. Some villagers of Tamachpur village said that the wolf had tried to attack an innocent child sleeping next to his mother in the courtyard of a house in the village, but on hearing the mother's screams, the wolf ran away and attacked a goat there. PTI

SASARAM

Six children drown

Six children drowned while bathing in Sone river in Bihar's Rohtas district on Sunday, officials said. One child was missing while another was rescued by the SDRF. "The incident took place in Tumba village when eight children were taking a bath in Sone river in the morning. According to villagers, the children slipped into deep waters," Rohtas District Magistrate Udita Singh said. "Police officials with SDRF personnel launched a search operation. The SDRF personnel fished out six bodies and one child was still missing. One child was rescued and taken to a nearby hospital and he is out of danger," Singh added. PTI

JAIPUR

Five killed in road mishap

A dumper rammed into three motorcycles in Dausa district of Rajasthan, killing five people and injuring 10 others on Sunday, police said. The incident took place in Lalsot at around 11.30 am, SHO of Lalsot police station Mahavir Singh said, adding initial investigation found that the dumper hit the motorcycles after its brakes failed. He said four of the five deceased have been identified as Laxmi Mahawar (7), Mahesh Chandra Sharma (45), Ram Hari Yogi (42) and Revad Mal Mahawar (40), while efforts are being made to identify the fifth victim, a woman. The injured have been admitted to a hospital. PTI

Bengal rape-murder: Locals protest cops' apathy

Police accused of neglecting intimation by victim's parents of their child going missing

KOLKATA

Tension prevailed in the Jayanagar area in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district on Sunday as the local people protested against police apathy in the minor girl's rape and murder case.

The local people accused the police of showing a lackadaisical attitude in addressing the early intimation by the victim's parents about their daughter being missing.

The parents have alleged that although they intimated the police about their missing daughter on Friday evening, the cops refused to act promptly. They started the investigation only after the body of the victim was recovered from a nearby canal after Friday midnight. The victim's parents alleged that the cops did not take their intimation of their missing daughter seriously and had they done their job immediately, such a ghastly tragedy could have been averted.

Since Saturday, hundreds of local people started protesting near Jaynagar Police Station accusing police of negligence. As time passed the protests became violent and the people attacked the police station. A local police camp was ransacked and set on fire. The police had to resort to massive lathi-charge to dispel the mob.

Additional police forces rushed to the area to bring the situation under control and continued to stay put following the continuation of the tension in the area.

Meanwhile, Mostakin Sardar, the arrested accused in the rape and murder of the minor girl has confessed to murdering the girl, sources from the district police said. However, he has not admitted to raping the girl, the sources added. Palash Chandra Dhali, the Superintendent of Police, Baruipur district, under whose jurisdiction Jaynagar comes, said that whether the incident of rape took place or not, it will only be known after the post-mortem of the body is done. State police sources said the arrested accused so far had not shown any kind of repentance even after confessing to his involvement in murder. IANS

Register case under POCSO Act, says Mamata

KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday directed the police to register the alleged rape-murder case of a 10-year-old girl in South 24 Parganas district under the POCSO Act, and ensure that the culprits get capital punishment within three months.

Banerjee, while speaking at the Kolkata Police Body Guard Lines after virtually inaugurating several Durga Pujas, asserted that crime has no colour, caste or religion. "I want the police to register the Kultuli case under the POCSO Act and ensure that the culprits get capital punishment within three months... Crime is crime; there is no religion or caste. Strong action should be taken against the criminals," the Chief Minister said.

Taking exception to "media trials" in rape cases, Banerjee said these must stop as it could hamper investigations. The body of a 10-year-old girl, allegedly raped and murdered, was found at Kultuli in South 24 Parganas on Saturday. PTI

Heavy Showers Drench Bengaluru

Residents of waterlogged Kendriya Vihar Apartments being shifted to a safer place after heavy rain, in Bengaluru, on Sunday. — Photo: PTI

Hindu society must unite for its security, says RSS chief

KOTA

Asserting that India is a Hindu nation, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has said the Hindu society must unite for its security by eliminating differences in language, caste and regional disputes. He also underlined that the functioning of the RSS is not mechanical but idea-based.

Addressing an event in Baran, Bhagwat said the Hindus consider everyone as their own and embrace everyone. "We have lived here since ancient times even though the term Hindu came later. Hindus embrace everyone. They live in harmony through continuous dialogue," he said.

He stressed "Hindu society must unite for its security by eliminating language, caste, and regional differences and disputes". He also stressed that discipline in conduct, duty towards the state and dedication to goals are essential qualities.

"A society is not just formed by individuals and their families, but by considering the comprehensive concerns through which one can attain spiritual fulfilment," said Bhagwat. Urging volunteers to maintain widespread contact within communities, he said that efforts should be made to alleviate community deficiencies by empowering society. PTI

Seer remarks: BJP MLA alleges temple attacked

GHAZIABAD(UP)

BJP MLA from Ghaziabad's Loni seat Nand Kishore Gurjar has alleged that the crowd which had gathered on Friday to protest against Yati Narsinghanand had pelted stones at the Dasna Devi temple here and police should have "shot" the attackers. If 10-20 people had died, there would have been no rioters, MLA is purportedly heard saying in a video that has appeared on social media.

A large crowd had protested on Friday night outside the Dasna Devi temple, where Narsinghanand presides, against his remarks on Prophet Muhammad. The controversial priest is facing multiple FIRs in the matter. A case was also registered against 150 people in Wave City police station on the complaint of Dasna police post in-charge Sub Inspector Bhanu regarding the protest. Gurjar alleged that there was stone pelting on the temple on Friday night and said, "The attack on the temple is an attack on Sanatan Dharma." PTI

RG Kar case: Ten doctors close to Sandip Ghosh expelled

KOLKATA

The authorities of State-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata have issued a notification announcing the decision to expel as many as 10 doctors, including interns, house staff and senior residents from the hospital.

All 10 of them, sources said, were extremely close confidants of Sandip Ghosh, the former and controversial principal of RG Kar, against whom the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is conducting two parallel probes — the first being in relation to the ghastly rape and murder of a junior doctor of the hospital in August this year and the second being gross financial irregularities.

Among the 10 expelled, one is house staff Ashish Pandey, who is already in CBI custody because of his alleged involvement in the financial irregularities case. Ayushree Thapa, another house staff, is the only female doctor in the team of 10 expelled doctors. The other eight, who have been expelled, are Sourav Pal, Abhishek Sen, Nirjan Bagchi, Sarif Hasan, Neelagni Debnath, Amarendra Singh, Satpal Singh and Tanweer Ahmed Kazi. IANS

'Top pathogens resistant to key antibiotics'

NEW DELHI

Two top most pathogens responsible for causing bloodstream infections (BSIs), the most common hospital-acquired infection, have been found to be resistant to the antibiotic imipenem among ICU patients, an ICMR study has found.

These two pathogens are Klebsiella pneumoniae and Acinetobacter baumannii. Besides, two other pathogens Staphylococcus aureus and Enterococcus faecium causing BSIs were resistant to the antibiotics oxacillin and vancomycin, respectively, the study stated.

Normally these antibiotics work on patients not suffering from BSIs. Bacteria Acinetobacter spp was the most common pathogen responsible for ventilator associated pneumonia, according to the ICMR's annual report 2023 which provides comprehensive details of bloodstream infections, UTIs and ventilator associated pneumonia reported from January 2023 to December 2023 from a network of 39 hospitals across India.

The network hospitals in this report are part of the ICMR's AMR network and hospitals that have voluntarily joined the network, said senior ICMR scientist Dr Kamini Walia, who led the antimicrobial resistance study. A high rate of resistance was seen among UTI causing E choli and Klebsiella pneumoniae and Acinetobacter baumannii against antibiotics carbapenem, fluoroquinolones and third generation cephalosporins, Dr Walia said.

Any infection, which develops after 48 hours of admission of a patient in the hospital, is called healthcare-associated infection, she explained. Antibiotics like piperacillin-tazobactam and carbapenems which are used for treating blood infections caused by E coli bacteria have been found to be more resistant among OPD, ICU and ward patients over the last seven years. PTI

RBI unlikely to cut interest rates

Inflation, Middle East crisis a cause for concern, say experts

PTI
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank is unlikely to cut the benchmark interest rate in its forthcoming bi-monthly monetary policy review later in the week as retail inflation is still a cause for concern, and there is a possibility of the Middle East crisis deteriorating further, impacting crude oil and commodity prices, say experts.

Earlier this month, the government reconstituted the Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel — Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). The reconstituted panel, with three newly appointed external members, will commence its maiden meeting on Monday. MPC Chairman RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das will reveal the outcome of the three-day discussion on Wednesday (October 9).

> **The status quo is the most likely option even for new members. Inflation forecast may be lowered by 10-20 bps and no change in GDP forecast likely**
>
> — **MADAN SABNAVIS,** Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda

The RBI has kept the repo or short-term lending rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent since February 2023, and experts think some easing could only be possible in December. The government has tasked the Central Bank to ensure that Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

In the current context, experts feel that the RBI may not follow the US Federal Reserve, which lowered the benchmark rates by 50 basis points, and the central banks of some developed nations, which have reduced the interest rates.

"We do not expect any change in the repo rate or stance by MPC. The reason is that inflation for September and October will be above 5 per cent, and the present low inflation is due to the base effect. Besides, core inflation is inching upwards," said Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda. Further, the recent Iran-Israel imbroglio can intensify, and there is uncertainty here, he said.

"Hence, the status quo is the most likely option even for new members. Inflation forecast may be lowered by 10-20 bps and no change in GDP forecast likely," said Sabnavis. The central bank last hiked the repo rate to 6.5 per cent in February 2023 and since then, it has held the rate at the same level.

Icra Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said that given the undershooting in the initial first quarter GDP growth relative to the MPC's forecast and the likely sizeable undershooting in the second quarter CPI inflation print as well, "we believe a stance change to neutral may be appropriate in the October 2024 policy review".
This could be followed by a shallow rate-cutting cycle of 25 bps each in December 2024 and February 2025, she added.

'India set to become next chip manufacturing hub'

Minister says Micron Technology to roll out first made-in-India chips by 2025

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw says the growth of semiconductor industry in India will boost PM Modi's vision.

BENGALURU

Union Minister for Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw has said that India is moving towards becoming the next semiconductor hub for the world as big investment is happening in this sector in the country.

Minister Viashnaw referred to a recent roundtable in New York between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top tech CEOs and said that in the discussion three top executives had said they had not seen this kind of enthusiasm for any country in the last 35 to 40 years. The Central government has cleared five semiconductor manufacturing proposals, with a total combined investment nearing Rs 1.52 lakh crore.

The Minister further said Micron Technology will roll out the first made-in-India chips by early 2025. The construction work of the CG power semiconductor facility is going on. And in Tata's ATMP facility in Assam, construction work is going on very well, he said.

Earlier, Minister said the growth of semiconductor industry in India will further boost PM Modi's vision. Chips manufactured in the industry are used in medical instruments, mobile phones, laptops, cars, trucks, trains, televisions and practically every device.

All the initiatives taken so far, whether it is the Digital India Mission have brought technology into the hands of common citizens. According to reports, India's semiconductor-related market will reach 64 billion dollars in 2026. Towards achieving this goal, the 'Semicon India' initiative allows financial support for front-end fabrication units, sensors, display manufacturing, display fabs, semiconductor packaging and compound semiconductors.

As per the experts, "by expanding production capabilities, the country is poised to become a major player in the semiconductor sector. National initiatives, such as the Semicon India Programme and the India Semiconductor Mission, are focused on capturing a significant share of the global market, driving innovation, and stimulating economic growth through job creation and technological advancement." IANS

In Brief

NEW DELHI

IndiGo ops normal

IndiGo's operations were normal on Sunday, a day after systems outage at the airline resulted in long waiting hours for passengers at airports. The airline operates more than 2,000 flights daily. An airline official on Sunday said operations were normal. The outage on Saturday lasted for many hours, and systems were back to normal late in the night. "Our systems are back to normal and are running smoothly," IndiGo said on X at 2311 hours on Saturday and regretted the inconvenience caused to customers. Airport services for IndiGo passengers were impacted, and some flights were delayed due to the outage. PTI

MUMBAI

Air India flight diverted

An Air India flight from Delhi to London was diverted to Copenhagen on Sunday due to a medical emergency, according to an airline official. A male passenger who was feeling ill was de-planed at Copenhagen (Denmark) and taken to a local hospital for medical attention. Later, the flight departed for London, the airline official said. "Our ground colleagues at Copenhagen airport did their best to minimise inconvenience caused to all the guests due to the diversion," the official added. PTI

BONDING TIME!

Rajya Sabha MP Sudha Murty with her pet 'Gopi' during a dog show hosted as part of Dasara festival, in Mysuru, on Sunday. — Photo: PTI

YouTube fixes bug, reinstates channels

NEW DELHI

Google-owned YouTube said that it has reinstated all channels and most videos that were removed due to a technical glitch or a bug. After a bug incorrectly flagged some channels for spam and removed them, YouTube began working on the fix.

"Happy to report that all channels and most videos incorrectly removed have been reinstated and subscriptions are restored," YouTube said in a post on X. "We know this caused some disruption, and we so appreciate your patience while we sort this out," it added. IANS

Special Dasara offers from Wonderla

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Wonderla Holidays, India's largest amusement park chain, announced the Dasara festival offer at Wonderla Hyderabad till October 10. To mark the festival, Wonderla is offering a special 'buy 2, get 1 free' ticket for online bookings. The bookings for the limited-time offer can be made until October 10, with tickets valid for use until October 31, a press release stated, adding that the park is also offering an exclusive 'buy 2 tickets with food combo and get 1 ticket with food combo free deal'.

Visitors can experience Dasara special festivities, including DJ set, lively Bathukamma, and a Dasara-themed procession until October 13.

They can also enjoy fun games at the wave pool, savour treats at the street food fest, and entertainment by captivating street magic throughout the day, it said. Wonderla Hyderabad recently introduced two new rides, Hyperverse and G-Fall. Wonderla encouraged visitors to book entry tickets in advance through the online portal https://bookings.wonderla.com/. Customers can also buy tickets directly from the park counters or contact Hyderabad park: 084 146 76333 or 91000 63636.

CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHARANYA PANNALA, R/o. 16-2-740/75/55, V K Dhage Nagar, Gaddiannaram, Hyd -60, TG Changed My Name to **SHARANYA REDDY PANNALA** W/o. JAGAN MOHAN REDDY PANNALA. [TT-8462]

I, MOHAMMED ABDUL FAHIM R/o. 34-190/A, New Shapurnagar IDA Jeedimetla Qutubullapur 500055, TS Change My Name As **MOHAMMED FAHEEM** S/o. Mohammed Abdul Salam [TT-8462]

I, VIKAS KUMAR JAIN S/o. BABULAL JAIN R/o. 5-3-733/301, 4 th Flr, FNo.403, Top Khana, Lucky House Nampally Hyd -500012 TS Changed My Name to **VIKAS JAIN** [TT-8462]

I, AAISHA SULTANA W/o. MOHAMMED ABDUL RAOF R/o. 18-10-8 No. 1, Barkas, Chandrayangutta, Bandlaguda, Hyd TS. I Have Changed My Name as **AYESHA SULTANA** [TT-8462]

I, GOPAL S/o. MALLYA, R/o. Flat No 409, Block-B, Jai Bhavani Nagar, Vanasthalipuram, Rachakonda-R.R Dist, TS-500070, Changed My Name As **GOPAL RATHOD.** [TT-8462]

I, YASMEEN FATHIMA W/o Zuber Bin Hussain R/o: 17-174/9, New Mohammed Nagar, NJ Garden, Errakunta, Bandlaguda, Hyd, T.S. Has Changed My Name as **YASMEEN FATIMA MAGRABI** [TT-8462]

I, MOHAMMED MOINUDDIN R/o: 6-3-263/4, Khanpura Karimnagar, TS-505001, Has changed my name as **MOINUDDIN AHMED** S/o Peer Mohammed. [TT-8462]

I, Haseena Mushtaq Ahmed W/o MUSHTAQ AHMED R/o. 9-4-131/B/87, Nadeem Colony, Tolichowki, Hyderabad, T.S. Changed my name from Haseena Mushtaq Ahmed to **Haseena Mushtaq** for all purposes. [TT-8462]

I, MOHMAD IBRAHIM KHALEEL S/o. MOHD ISMAIL, R/o. Flat No, G-5, Super Falcon Apartments, Shaikpet, hyderabad-500008. Have Change My Minor Son's Name Aged 17, From ROBERT JAMES KHALEEL TO **MOHAMMED MUSTAFA KHALEEL** For All Records Purpose. [TT-8462]

LOST

I, MANISHA D/o RADHEY SHYAM, R/o. #304, KP Apartment, Kundanbagh Colony, Begumpet-16. I Lost My Passport No: V0118658 While Travelling from Somajiguda to Panjagutta if Any body found **Call: 9050415120** [TT-PRASAD]

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Family bags 20th Guinness Record

STATE BUREAU
Sangareddy

Shivali Johri Srivastava, along with her parents Kavita Johri Srivastava and Anil Srivastava, alumni of GITAM Deemed-to-be University, Hyderabad, have achieved a milestone by securing their 18th, 19th and 20th Guinness World Records.

Their accomplishment was for the largest display of 3,400 origami peacocks, 4,400 origami shirts, and 3,200 origami pigs/boars. The feat was officially confirmed following submission and validation of a video as evidence. With these new records, the Srivastava family now holds the highest number of Guinness World Records in Hyderabad, totalling 20 records. They expressed their gratitude to GITAM Hyderabad Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof DS Rao, Resident Director DVVSR Varma, Dr Mallikarjun, and the entire GITAM family for their continuous support and encouragement.

Shivali Johri Srivastava with her parents Kavita and Anil.

The family had set 17 Guinness World Records for creating displays of various objects, including handmade paper dolls, quilled flowers, origami whales, penguins, citrus fruits, maple leaves, dogs, dinosaurs, pigs/boars, and more.

Two stranded foreigners rescued

GOPESHWAR

Two foreign women mountaineers, who were stranded at a height of 6,015 metres on way to the Chaukhamba III peak in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, were rescued on Sunday morning, the District Disaster Management Centre here said.

The mountaineers — Michelle Theresa Dvorak from the USA and Fay Jane Manners from the United Kingdom — were stranded since October 3. Both are safe despite their ordeal lasting three days. Though looking somewhat tired, the experienced mountaineers wore a smile when they were brought to the Jyotirmath (Joshimath) helipad by the Indian Air Force (IAF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel on Sunday morning. A French mountaineering team which was also on a separate expedition to the peak helped in locating the stranded woman from the USA and UK. PTI

Bathukamma celebrated in Dubai

Telangana expatriates taking part in Bathukamma festivities in Dubai.

IRFAN MOHAMMED
Jeddah

Bathukamma, the popular floral festival of Telangana, is being celebrated by Telangana expatriates living in Arabian Gulf countries.

A celebratory mood prevailed among the Telangana expatriate community across the region as Bathukamma festivities are being organised on a grand scale. Various organisations in Dubai are competing to celebrate the event on Saturday and Sunday, with one such event being organised by the Gulf Telangana Cultural and Welfare Association. GWCA team comprised of Juvvadi Srinivas Rao, Salahuddin, Samuel and Bharati Reddy among others oversaw the arrangements. Emirates Telangana Cultural and Welfare Association also celebrated the festival on Sunday.

Durga pandal spreads awareness on drugs

STATE BUREAU
Siddipet

The organisers of Navaratri festivities in Dubbak set a new path to follow as they decided to spread awareness on drug menace besides organising Dasara festivities in their locality.

In the wake of increased drug consumption among the youth, Yuva Kiranam Sports Association, which has been installing the Ganesh idol in the 20th ward for the past 35 years, decided to educate the youth, parents and a cross-section of people on the effects of drug consumption. They decorated one side of Goddess Durga pandal with anti-drug slogans and printed various news reports published on drug menace on the pandal.

The organisers started this trend during Ganesh festivities of 2023. They spread awareness on the importance of enrolling as voters besides educating the visitors to their pandal on the importance of exercising their franchise during elections.

The unique pandal set up by Yuva Kiranam Sports Association in Dubbak of Siddipet district.

Speaking to 'Telangana Today', association president Macha Shiva Kumar said they had decided to educate people on the importance of voting since the festival came just before the Assembly elections. During the 2024 Ganesh festivities, Shiva Kumar said they decorated the pandal with slogans and news clips on cybercrime. After a tremendous response to their campaign, he said they decided to install Goddess Durga idol for the first time this year and continued the trend of educating people on social issues. The pandal has been witnessing scores of devotees.

Association
The Yuva Kiranam Sports Association was set up in late 1980s by a group of sports enthusiasts. The youth from the area competed in ball badminton, volleyball, shuttle and other competitions across the district under one umbrella. The same association started organising Ganesh festivities. Last year, the association set a new trend by organising the festivities with a message. The founding members of the association are Gavvala Srinivas, Gavvala Sridhar, Lonka Narendar, Gundaboyina Satyanarayana, Bethi Prabhakar, Srinivas, among others.

In Brief

SARAJEVO

Rescue teams in Bosnia

Rescue teams from Bosnia's neighbours and EU countries were joining efforts to clear the rubble and find people still missing from floods and landslides that devastated parts of the Balkan country. Bosnia sought EU help after a heavy rainstorm overnight on Friday left entire areas under water and debris destroyed roads and bridges, killing at least 18 people and wounding dozens. AP

SYDNEY

Girl dead in fire mishap

An eight-year-old girl died and a woman was missing after a townhouse caught fire in Australia's Queensland. Emergency services were called at approximately 7:15 am to the property following reports that a townhouse was on fire, QPS said. It said emergency services located the body of a girl, and one person, believed to be a woman in her 30s, remained unaccounted for. IANS

SANTA MONICA

Man fatally shot in US

A California officer fatally shot a man who wounded him with a knife outside a city police headquarters in what authorities called "an unprovoked attack." A man in his 30s approached the officer outside the front doors of Santa Monica Police Department around 5.20 pm Saturday. The man was told he would need to wait while the officer finished speaking to a resident, the department said. AP

PARIS

4 migrants killed

Four migrants including a 2-year-old child died while attempting to cross the English Channel illegally, the French Pas-de-Calais prefecture said. French Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau said on the social platform X that the incident was a "horrific tragedy that should make us all aware of the ongoing catastrophe," Xinhua news agency reported. IANS

PTI to protest until release of Imran

Security personnel detain a supporter of PTI president Imran Khan during a protest, in Lahore. — Photo: AP

ISLAMABAD

The situation remained tense in Pakistan's capital on Sunday as jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party vowed to continue its protest against the government, a day after violent clashes between security forces and his supporters that left one policeman dead and several others injured. Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) party, in an overnight meeting, decided that the demonstration would go on until the release of Khan, who has been in jail since August last year.

The situation in Islamabad and neighbouring Rawalpindi, which witnessed the violent clashes on Saturday remained tense. However, there were no reports of violence in the twin cities on Sunday, indicating that the situation was improving gradually. The mobile phone services have also been restored in the two cities which had been suspended on Friday.

Meanwhile, the whereabouts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, who is also the protest leader, remained unknown. The party and family members were unable to make any contact with him from Saturday evening, said his government spokesman Muhammad Ali Saif. Saif on Saturday first claimed that Gandapur was "arrested", but later in a post on X said that the "KP CM has not been formally arrested".

The political committee of PTI decided that if Gandapur was arrested, senior party leader Azam Swati would lead the protest. If Swati is arrested, a new leader will be chosen to take command, according to the Dawn newspaper. PTI

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa CM 'missing'

PESHAWAR: The mystery around the sudden disappearance of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur deepened Sunday after Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that he was not in the custody of any federal institution.

Gandapur went incommunicado on Saturday evening from his official residence in the national capital, where he had gone to rest after leading a protest caravan of his PTI from the province to Islamabad.

Naqvi said that the government was unaware of the whereabouts of the chief minister, who, in his words, escaped from the KP House before police reached there. PTI

Will win with or without West support: Netanyahu

Says Macron and other leaders now calling for arms embargo against Israel

IANS
JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu slammed French President Emmanuel Macron, who in a recent radio interview called for halting the supply of weapons to Israel for its operations in Gaza, saying all "civilised" countries should be standing firmly by Israel's side as it fights the forces of "barbarism led by Iran".

Macron and other Western leaders are "now calling for arms embargoes against Israel," Netanyahu said in a recorded video address, and asserted that Israel "will win with or without their support". "But their shame will continue long after the war is won," he added. Netanyahu said that Israel is defending itself on seven fronts against the "enemies of civilisation" today.

"Is Iran imposing an arms embargo on Hezbollah, on the Houthis, on Hamas and on its other proxies? Of course not. This axis of terror stands together. But countries who supposedly oppose this terror axis call for an arms embargo on Israel," he said. Netanyahu also said that the Israeli army has destroyed a significant portion of Hezbollah's missile and rocket capabilities.

He said that the Israeli forces are dismantling the Lebanese group's tunnel system near the border. "While the threat has not been fully eliminated, we have shifted the balance of the conflict," he said.

"About a month ago, as we neared the end of dismantling Hamas battalions in Gaza, we began fulfilling the promise I made to the residents of northern Israel." Since September 23, the Israeli army intensified its airstrikes against Hezbollah across Lebanon, resulting in significant civilian casualties and displacing residents from many areas. The airstrikes have also targeted and killed key Hezbollah leaders, including the group's secretary-general, Hassan Nasrallah. In addition, Israel has launched what it describes as a "limited" ground operation in Lebanon.

These escalations have exacerbated ongoing clashes between Israel and Hezbollah, which began on October 8, 2023, when Hezbollah fired rockets into Israel in support of Hamas in the Gaza Strip, prompting retaliatory fire and airstrikes by Israel in southeastern Lebanon.

Flames and smoke rise from an Israeli airstrike in Dahiyeh, Beirut early Sunday. — Photo:AP

Pro-Palestinian rallies held around globe

ROME: Police used tear gas and water cannons to disperse violent demonstrators in Rome as tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters took to the streets in major European cities and around the globe Saturday to call for a ceasefire as the first anniversary of the Hamas attacks on Israel approached. Huge rallies were held in several European cities, with gatherings expected to continue over the weekend and peak on Monday, the date of the anniversary.

In Rome, several thousands demonstrated peacefully until a smaller group tried to push the rally toward the centre of the city, in spite of a ban by local authorities who refused to authorize protests, citing security concerns. AP

Israel intercepts drones from Lebanon

BEIRUT: The Israeli military said on Sunday that its Air Force in northern Israel's Western Galilee region has intercepted "numerous" explosive drones fired from Lebanon into Israeli territory.

The military stated in a release that it has also intercepted two surface-to-surface missiles launched from Lebanon towards the Carmel and Haifa areas in northern Israel, as well as most of the 25 rockets from Lebanon targeting Western Galilee. The remaining rockets aimed at Western Galilee landed in open areas, with no injuries reported, it noted.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah claimed that it attacked a maintenance and rehabilitation base south of Haifa on Sunday afternoon with "a squadron of attack drones," accurately hitting its targets. IANS

Trump must win to preserve democracy in US, says Musk

Ex-Prez urges voters to end radical-left agenda once and for all

WASHINGTON

Former US President Donald Trump on Saturday returned to Butler, a city in Pennsylvania where he narrowly escaped an assassination bid 12 weeks ago, and addressed thousands of his supporters in this key battleground State, urging them to elect him as the next President of the United States. Joined by high-profile figures like Tesla owner Elon Musk and his running mate, Senator J D Vance, Trump (78) made a passionate plea to "defeat" Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic candidate in the November 5 presidential poll.

"We must stop her country-destroying regime, radical-left agenda once and for all. We cannot have it happen. So you must get out and you must vote," Trump said in Pennsylvania, which in this election cycle has emerged as a must-win situation for both candidates.

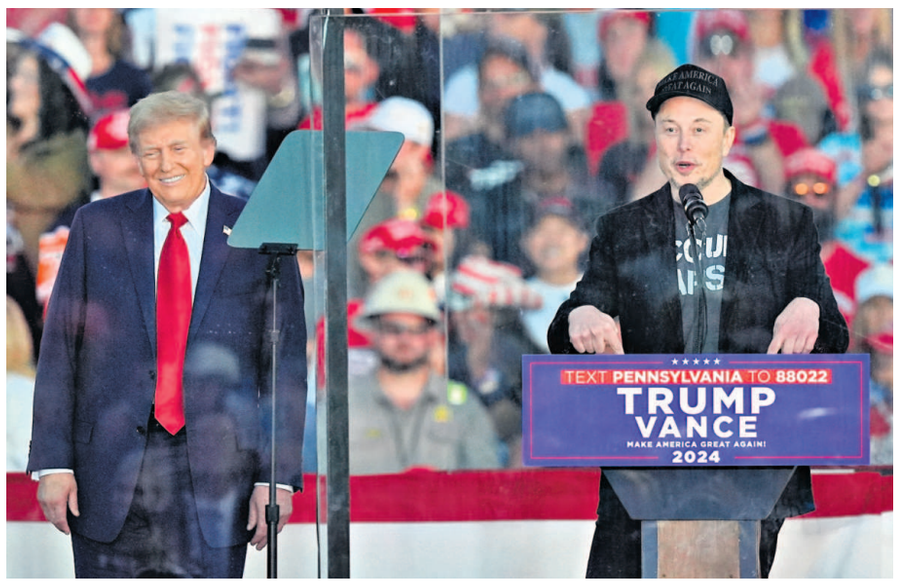
Trump launched a scathing attack on Harris and accused her of being a failure on multiple fronts, including border security and economy. "She imposed a natural gas export ban on Pennsylvania, which is killing your energy workers and your pricing," he said. "Kamala Harris is a radical-left Marxist. She is a woman that is not respected in Congress. She was laughed at Congress. Nobody thought she could win. They did a coup of Biden. Whether you like him or not, I am not a particularly big fan. We had a debate, and the debate ended. And all of a sudden, they come to him, and they say, we want you out. You are not going to win the election. And he said, 'I do not want to get out'," Trump said.

"He (Biden) got 14 million (1.4 crore) votes. If you believe in democracy or a system, he got 14 million votes. And she (Harris) got none. She was the first one out, 22 candidates, and she never made it to Iowa. She quit before Iowa, and now she is running. And that is okay. But, you know, we spent $150 million beating Biden, and as soon as he was down and out for the count, they said, let us take him out. We will give somebody else to run. Never happened before," he said.

"She is a person that rated even worse in every statistic than any other senator. She was rated at the bottom of the US Senate. She has destroyed everything she touched," Trump said. The former President said if elected, on the first day of his presidency, he would seal the border and stop the migrant invasion into the country.

In his brief speech, Musk said this is a must-win situation for the country. "President Trump must win to preserve the Constitution. He must win to preserve democracy in America. This is a must-win situation. So I have one ask for everyone in the audience, everyone who watches this video, everyone in the livestream. This one request is very important. Register to vote. And get everyone you know and everyone you do not know, drag them to register to vote.... Then make sure they actually do vote. If they do not, this will be the last election. That is my prediction," he said.

Musk said the true test of someone's character is how they behave under fire. "We had one President who could not climb a flight of stairs. Another who was fist pumping after getting shot. Fight, fight, fight. Blood coming down the face. America is the home of the brave. There is no truer test than courage under fire. So who do you want representing America?" he asked the audience. PTI



Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump with Elon Musk during a campaign rally at the Butler Farm Show, Pennsylvania. — Photo: AP

Pak girl kills 13 of her family, arrested

KARACHI

A girl was arrested on Sunday in Pakistan's Sindh province after 13 members of her family died due to the mixing of poison in their food as they were not ready to let her marry according to her choice, police said.

The deaths took place on August 19 in Haibat Khan Brohi village near Khairpur. The girl got angry after her family did not allow her to marry the boy of her choice. She then conspired with her boyfriend to poison the family members, including her parents. "All of the 13 members fell ill after having their food and were rushed to a hospital where all of them died. When the postmortem was done it emerged that these people had died from poisonous food," senior police officer Inayat Shah said from Khairpur. He said when the police conducted a thorough investigation it was found out that the daughter and her boyfriend had put poison in the wheat used to make rotis in the house. "She was angry because, despite her efforts, her family was not ready to let her marry the boy of her choice," Shah said. PTI

> She mixed poison in their food as they were not ready to let her marry according to her choice, police say

Militants kill 8 security personnel

PESHAWAR

At least eight Pakistani security personnel were killed on Sunday and two others injured when militants attacked their vehicle in the country's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, sources said. The militants ambushed the vehicle in the Kurram tribal district bordering Afghanistan.

The attack killed eight law enforcement officials and injured two others, according to the sources. A splinter terrorist group of the outlawed TTP — Jamaat-ul Ahrar — claimed responsibility for the attack. The military's media cell which typically issues statements on such attacks, has not commented on this incident yet. PTI

Pope names 21 new cardinals

ROME

Pope Francis named 21 new cardinals Sunday, significantly increasing the size of the College of Cardinals and further cementing his mark on the group of prelates who will one day elect his successor.

They include a man who will be the oldest cardinal — Monsignor Angelo Acerbi, a 99-year-old retired Vatican diplomat who was once held hostage for six weeks in Colombia by leftist guerrillas — and the youngest — the 44-year-old head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Melbourne, Australia, Bishop Mykola Bychok, named in a nod to the ongoing war in Ukraine.

The new cardinals will get their red hats at a ceremony, known as a consistory, on December 8, an important feast day on its own that officially kicks off the Christmas season in Rome. It will be Francis' 10th consistory to create new princes of the church and the biggest infusion of voting-age cardinals into the college in Francis' 11-year pontificate. Acerbi is the only one of the new intake who is over 80 and hence too old to vote for new pope.

As of September 28, there were 122 cardinal-electors; that means the new infusion brings their numbers up to 142. Among those named by history's first Latin American pope were the heads of several major dioceses and archdioceses in South America. They are the archbishop of Santiago del Estero, Argentina, Vicente Bokalic Iglic; the archbishop of Porto Alegre, Brazil, Jaime Spengler; the archbishop of Santiago, Chile, Fernando Natalio Chomali Garib; the archbishop of Guayaquil, Ecuador. AP

India crawls to victory

Secures six-wicket win over Pak to keep semis hope alive in T20 World Cup

PTI
DUBAI

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's years of experience saved India from blushes as they huffed and puffed to a six-wicket win over arch-rivals Pakistan, keeping their semi-final hopes alive in the Women's T20 World Cup, here Sunday.

Indian batters made heavy weather of a paltry 106-run target as it required a 24-ball-29 from their experienced skipper to eke out the crucial win. Harmanpreet retired hurt when two runs were required for victory. Sajana Sajeevan, playing her first game, finished it off with a boundary. The defensive approach by opener Shafali Verma (32 off 35 balls) and new No. 3 Jemimah Rodrigues (23 off 28 balls) meant that India could not boost their Net Run Rate which could prove very costly in the larger context of making it to the last-four stage.

Despite the victory, India's NRR is currently -1.217 and they remain below Pakistan, who are in third place with NRR of -0.555. India would need to beat both Australia and Sri Lanka by comfortable margins to harbour any hopes of a semi-final berth. The entire Indian innings had only five boundaries and none of the top three looked like getting a move on.The chase was not exactly a cakewalk as Smriti Mandhana (7 off 16 balls) was out early while Shafali and Jemimah concentrated on taking singles. The running between the wickets wasn't impressive as some easy doubles and a sure triple was not even tried, probably due to sapping heat. Even as Jemimah showed some interest in pushing fielders, Shafali's poor fitness came in the way.

Despite a negative net run rate of -2.90, there was no intent shown by the Indian batters to surpass the paltry target in a good time. Shafali could hit only three shots to the fence in her 35-ball knock and she increased the pressure on the batting unit with the below-par effort. As far as Jemimah was concerned, power isn't diminutive Mumbaikar's forte as she is more of a batter who relies on timing and ability to find gaps. Once Fatima removed both Jemimah and Richa Ghosh (0) off successive deliveries, the onus was on Harmanpreet to take the team past home.

India's Renuka Singh celebrates the wicket of Pakistan's Gull Feroza with her teammates during the World Cup match against Pakistan at Dubai International Stadium, on Sunday. —Photo: AP/PTI

West Indies beat Scotland by six wickets

DUBAI: Riding on their excellent show with the ball, West Indies got the better of Scotland by six wickets in their Women's T20 World Cup match here on Sunday.

With this, West Indies opened their account in the tournament after losing the first match to South Africa by 10 wickets. For Scotland, it was their second successive defeat. Opting to bat after winning the toss, Scotland could only manage 99 for eight in their allotted 20 overs with leg-spinner Afy Fletcher (3/22) doing the star turn for the Windies with the ball. Skipper Kathryn Bryce and Ailsa Lister made 25 and 26, respectively, for the Scots who are currently placed at the bottom of the table.

BRIEF SCORES: Scotland 99/8 in 20 overs (Ailsa Lister 26; Afy Fletcher 3/22) lost to West Indies 101/4 in 11.4 overs (Qiana Joseph 31). PTI

Scorecard

PAKISTAN
Muneeba Ali †st †Ghosh b Patil 17 (26b, 2x4), Gull Feroza b Renuka Singh 0 (4b), Sidra Amin b Sharma 8 (11b, 1x4), Omaima Sohail c Shafali Verma b Reddy 3 (6b), Nida Dar b Reddy 28 (34b, 1x4), Aliya Riaz lbw b Reddy 4 (9b), Fatima Sana (c) c †Ghosh b Sobhana 13 (8b, 2x4), Tuba Hassan c Shafali Verma b Patil 0 (3b), Syeda Aroob Shah no 14 (17b, 1x4), Nashra Sandhu no 6 (2b, 1x4); **Extras:** (b 2, lb 1, w 9) **12; Total:** (For 8 wkts in 20 overs) **105; Fall of wickets:** 1-1, 2-25, 3-33, 4-41, 5-52, 6-70, 7-71, 8-99; **Bowling:** Renuka Singh 4-0-23-1, Deepti Sharma 4-0-24-1, Arundhati Reddy 4-0-19-3, Shreyanka Patil 4-1-12-2, Asha Sobhana 4-0-24-1

INDIA
Shafali Verma c Aliya Riaz b Omaima Sohail 32 (35b, 3x4), Smriti Mandhana c Tuba Hassan b Sadia Iqbal 7 (16b), Jemimah Rodrigues c †Muneeba Ali b Fatima Sana 23 (28b), Harmanpreet Kaur (c) retired hurt 29 (24b, 1x4), Richa Ghosh †c †Muneeba Ali b Fatima Sana 0 (1b), Deepti Sharma no 7 (8b), Sajeevan Sajana no 4 (1b); **Extras:** (w 6) **6; Total:** (For 4 wkts in 18.5 overs) **108; Fall of wickets:** 1-18, 2-61, 3-80, 4-80, 4-104; **Bowling:** Fatima Sana 4-0-23-2, Sadia Iqbal 4-0-23-1, Nida Dar 1.5-0-10-0, Omaima Sohail 3-0-17-1, Nashra Sandhu 4-0-21-0, Tuba Hassan 2-0-14-0

We did think about NRR, says Mandhana

Defends team's cautious batting in tense victory

DUBAI

India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana defended her team's ultra-defensive batting approach in a chase of 106 runs against Pakistan which might have greatly dented their chances of reaching the Women's T20 World Cup semi-final.

India struggled to reach the winning target losing four wickets with only seven balls to spare and the entire innings had five boundaries compared to Pakistan's eight. Shafali Varma played 35 balls for her 32 while Jemimah Rodrigues consumed 28 balls while reaching a painstaking 23.

It was skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, whose 29 before getting retired hurt finally guided India to victory. "A better start with the bat would have been good, but we will take that win," said Mandhana at the post-match presentation ceremony admitting that they "did think about" net run rate.

Before the Pakistan game, India's NRR was -2.90 and after the win, it has marginally improved to -1.217 which is inferior compared to Pakistan's -0.555. "Me and Shafali could not time the ball," she was forthright in her admission. "We didn't want to end up losing a lot of wickets. We were a little calculative. The NRR is in our head," she added.

> **A better start with the bat would have been good, but we will take that win**
>
> — **SMRITI MANDHANA,** India vice-captain

She however couldn't provide a lot of update on Harmanpreet's on-field injury that forced her to retire hurt. "Too soon to say anything. The medical team is looking at it. Hope it's not too bad," she said. The next game is against Sri Lanka and Mandhana expects that India will put up a better show than the Asia Cup final, which they lost.

"They have been playing good cricket but this game (against Pakistan) will give us the momentum." Pakistan skipper Fatima Sana felt that her team was 15 runs short of their eventual total of 105 for 8. "We were not up to the mark in the batting. We were 10-15 runs short." PTI

STREAMING NOW

Cricket: Women's T20 WC, Eng vs SA, 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1 & 2

In Brief

HYDERABAD

HIL: Hyd Toofans eye success

Hyderabad Toofans, owned by Resolute Sports, is one of the eight franchises in the Hockey India League. Resolute Sports has competed in the Prime Volleyball League with Delhi Toofans. "Our first season with the Prime Volleyball League was a success in terms of making the finals in the inaugural season itself. We hope to carry this mindset into the Hockey India League and hope to go one better with the Hyderabad Toofans," Alok Sanghi, Director, Resolute Sports said.

SACRAMENTO

Indian Army win over US Military

The Indian Army arena polo team defeated the US Military in a thrilling test match. The Indian team, comprising Prithvi Singh, Yatinder Kumar, Mrityunjay Singh and RK Gautam, won 13-10 at the Lakeside Polo Club. Mrityunjay, despite sustaining an injury during the second chukker, continued to compete until the fourth chukker, before being substituted by Gautam. Arena polo, quite similar to the outdoor version is played on 300 feet by 150 feet field.

GOTEMBA

Golfer Kartik top Indian at 18th

Young golfer Kartik Singh emerged as the top Indian at the 18th position at 2024 Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship on Sunday. The 14-year-old, who last year became the youngest ever to make the cut at the AAC, shot rounds of 71-67-72-70 for an even par 280. The other two Indians, who made the cut. Krishnav Nikhil Chopraa (68-77-74-67) shot his best of 3-under 67 and Rakshit Dahiya (75, 71, 70, 70) carded an even par 70 for the second straight round.

TAIPEI

Rashid lies tied fourth in Taiwan

India's Rashid Khan, a two-time winner on the Asian Tour, shot four-under 68 after waiting for two days for action to begin at the weather-hit Mercuries Taiwan Masters at Taiwan Golf & Country Club. He was lying at T-4, while S Chikkarangappa (69) was T-9. SSP Chawrasia and Karandeep Kochhar with 70 each were T-17. Varun Chopra (71) was T-27, while Yuvraj Sandhu (72) and T-Gaganjeet Bhullar (73) were T-60.

Malik's fifer helps Hyderabad beat Himachal Pradesh

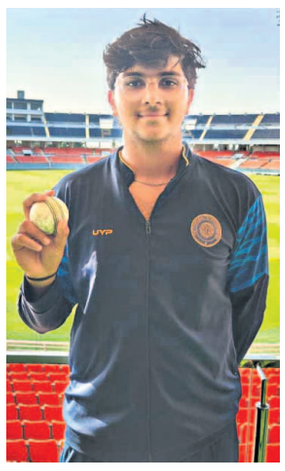
SPORTS BUREAU
Hyderabad

MA Malik's outstanding figures of 5/36 guided Hyderabad CA to a convincing six-wicket victory over Himachal Pradesh CA in the second round of the BCCI Jr Men's U-19 Vinoo Mankad Trophy at PCA Ground, Mullanpur, on Sunday. Malik's exceptional bowling was instrumental in restricting Himachal Pradesh to 170 runs in 49 overs, with Arnan Jamwal top-scoring with 72 runs and Sushant K Thakur contributing an unbeaten 49, while the rest of the team struggled. Hyderabad successfully chased down the target in just 33.4 overs, with Aaron George leading the way with a score of 66.

Jr Women's U-19 T20: Punjab CA secured a 53-run victory over Hyderabad CA in the Group C round four clash of the BCCI Jr Women's U-19 T20 Trophy at Sanosara Cricket Ground, Rajkot, on Sunday.

Batting first, Vanshika Mahajan scored 66 runs, guiding Punjab CA to 152/5 in 20 overs. K Vaishnavi Yadav stood out with the ball, claiming three wickets. In reply, Hyderabad struggled and finished at 99/9 in their 20 overs. Surbhi excelled for Punjab, delivering impressive bowling figures of 3/11.

BRIEF SCORES: Jr Men's U-19 Vinoo Mankad Trophy: Himachal Pradesh CA 170 in 49 overs (Arnan Jamwal 72, Sushant K Thakur 49 no, Malik 5/36, D Manish 3/34) lost to Hyderabad CA 175/4 in 33.4 overs (Aaron George 66, Anvith Reddy 46, Alankrith Rapole 27 no); **Jr Women's U-19 T20 Trophy:** Punjab CA 152/5 in 20 overs (Vanshika Mahajan 66, K Vaishnavi Yadav 3/35) bt Hyderabad CA 99/9 in 20 overs (K Nidhi 33, Mohini Rana 2/23, Surbhi 3/11).


MA Malik

Struggling Pakistan face England

MULTAN

England is aiming to challenge struggling Pakistan with a new-look pace attack in the opening test of a three-match series, starting in the searing heat of Multan on Monday.

Pacer Brydon Carse will make his test debut with Gus Atkinson set to play his first overseas test after his impressive home season against the West Indies and Sri Lanka. All-rounder Chris Woakes was penciled in to the starting XI after Ben Stokes was ruled out for the fourth successive test match due to ongoing rehabilitation on his injured hamstring. Woakes will be playing his first match in two-and-a-half years. Carse's pace gave him the edge over Olly Stone and Matthew Potts for the tour of Pakistan. AP

Gauff wins China Open trophy

BEIJING

Coco Gauff won her second title this season with a lopsided 6-1, 6-3 victory over Karolina Muchova in the final of the China Open on Sunday.

Aged 20, the sixth-ranked U.S. player became the youngest China Open champion in 14 years. She is also the second American champion in Beijing, following Serena Williams' title runs in 2004 and 2013. It was Gauff's eighth career title. She improved her record in tour finals to 8-1 and has now a 7-0 record in hard-court finals, a feat never achieved before in the Open Era.

Gauff, who defended her Auckland title earlier this season, wasted no time and took the opening set in just 31 minutes. She dropped just five points on her first serve, hit 24 winners and broke Muchova five times. Gauff's win in Beijing improved her chances of qualifying for the WTA Finals featuring the eight top players for the third consecutive year. With her title, she will overtake Jessica Pegula to take the No. 5 spot ahead of the final WTA 1000 tournament of the season, the Wuhan Open starting Monday.

Shanghai Masters

Top-ranked Jannik Sinner overcame a one-set deficit to rally to a 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-2 win against Tomas Martin Etcheverry at the Shanghai Masters.

A night after winning his 250th career match with a straight-sets victory, the 23-year-old Italian faced a much sterner third-round examination against the No. 37-ranked Argentine under the roof inside Qizhong Forest Sports City Arena that hosted play due to rain. AP

Coco Gauff kisses the trophy in Beijing on Sunday. — Photo:AP

Short takes

CRICKET USA

Sachin Tendulkar joins America's National Cricket League

Sachin Tendulkar has joined America's National Cricket League ownership group, a move that is expected to give a big boost to the sport in the United States. "Cricket has been my life's greatest journey and I am pleased to join the National Cricket League at such an exciting time for the sport in the US. The NCL's vision to create a platform for world-class cricket while inspiring a new generation of fans to resonate with me," Tendulkar said.

RUGBY KATHMANDU

Rugby India chief Rahul hails women's team for winning silver

As the Indian women's team finished runners-up at the Asia Rugby Sevens Trophy for the fourth time, the Rugby India president Rahul Bose said that while the team is disappointed with the result, their silver medal will remain a commendable result for the national side. In a valiant effort, Indian women lost to the Philippines by a whisker in the final. Led by Shikha Yadav, the Indian team played with great skill and lost the final by a scoreboard of 7-5.

CRICKET NEW DELHI

Bavuma ruled out of third ODI vs Ireland, Hendricks added

Temba Bavuma has been ruled out of South Africa's third ODI against Ireland due to a soft tissue injury on his left elbow. Cricket South Africa has announced Reeza Hendricks as his replacement with the team in Abu Dhabi. It added that Rassie van der Dussen will captain the team for the final match of the series against Ireland in Bavuma's absence. South Africa holds an unassailable 2-0 lead heading into last match of the ODI series happening on Monday.

FOOTBALL SYDNEY

Injury halts Luongo's Australia return, may sit out in WC qualifiers

Massimo Luongo's comeback from international retirement has been shelved after the midfielder was ruled out of Australia's squad for FIFA 2026 World Cup qualifiers against China and Japan due to an ankle injury. Last week, Luongo came out of international retirement to join Tony Popovic's extended 26-man squad for the World Cup qualifiers. Additionally, another midfielder, Connor Metcalfe of St. Pauli, was also ruled out of the squad with a leg injury.

FOOTBALL KOLKATA

Maclaren delighted to score first goal for Mohun Bagan

Mohun Bagan Super Giant's Jamie Maclaren opened his account at his new club with a goal in their 3-0 win over Mohammedan SC in the Kolkata derby on Saturday. "It was a great feeling (to score my first goal). Last few weeks, I have been building up my fitness, so it was good to start a game. We have such a good contingent of attacking players. Everyone is contributing goals and assists and that's the beauty of our squad," he said.